

Lord's welcomes women - but only for one day



Grace: Long Room stalwart

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

WOMEN are to be allowed into the pavilion at Lord's for the first time during playing hours when England's world-beating women take on the touring New Zealanders next Thursday.

Wives and partners of MCC members will be able to walk for the first time through the hallowed portals of the male-only sanctuary and into the Long Room, beneath the stern gaze of the father of modern cricket, W. G. Grace.

One of the last bastions of male exclusivity will fall on June 13 when women sit alongside MCC members for the women's one-day international. Until now only the Queen has been able to join the men in the

pavilion during playing hours. However, the MCC insists that the move does not hasten the day when women will be welcomed at county or Test matches. There are no plans to end the bar on them becoming members.

Nonetheless, the move is a step further forward than that taken during the 1993 women's World Cup final. Then the committee room was made available only to the Women's Cricket Association.

"It was generally felt by members that we should make this move," Chris Rea, the MCC's assistant secretary, said. "We are breaking new ground, but we have not yet discussed whether we will do the same at future matches."

The one-day international on

Thursday will be the sixth played by England women at cricket's headquarters in St John's Wood. The women have proved rather more successful than their male counterparts in recent years. They are the current world champions after beating New Zealand in the 1993 final. Two of their one-day games will be televised on Sky.

The Women's Cricket Association, based in Birmingham, is anxious not to provoke a controversy. Cath Harris, for the association, said:

"We are really pleased they have taken this step. The players are looking forward to being at Lord's next week and being able to play a larger part in the life of the ground."

"This is historic not only in terms

of Lord's but for women's cricket as a whole. The women's game has developed along a different track to the men and our results speak for themselves. We are the world champions and will defend the cup next year. We are quite capable of standing on our own two feet."

The association said that the Test and County Cricket Board had "gone out of its way" to help with the arrangements for the New Zealanders' tour.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is demanding a change in the law governing sex discrimination to end anomalies that allow the MCC and others — mainly golf clubs — to retain male-only membership. "It is still on the agenda," the commission said. "We have asked for it to be moved, but so far

without any luck. It is something we still want."

In 1976 Rachael Heyhoe Flint, then the women's captain, led her side on a march through the Long Room after beating Australia. Five years ago, supported by the lyricist Tim Rice and the late commentator Brian Johnston, she lost her bid to become the first woman member of the MCC by 4,727 votes to 2,371.

An MCC working party is expected to be set up to investigate the current membership laws. Mr Knight suggested it was vital to uphold traditions that embodied the standards and values of the game. "At the same time, we cannot stand still. The world is going forward."

England success, page 48

Palace to scrutinise
Duchess of York's
life story

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM PALACE is dusting down its most powerful legal microscope in readiness for the Duchess of York's autobiography, which she will write after signing a \$1.3 million (£838,000) deal with the New York publisher Simon and Schuster.

The Palace refuses to be drawn into details of the Duchess's past life or what the attitude might be to a revelatory volume but it is known that the Queen's lawyers will pick over every word in search of breaches of the confidentiality clause the Duchess accepted as part of her £2 million divorce settlement.

Palace officials are alert to the possibility that she may be tempted to disclose personal details about members of the Royal Family. But a spokesman for the Duchess's office in London said yesterday: "The Duchess will not break any confidentiality agreements: she holds the Queen in high esteem. The book will deal with her early life, and her transition from private life into the public domain."

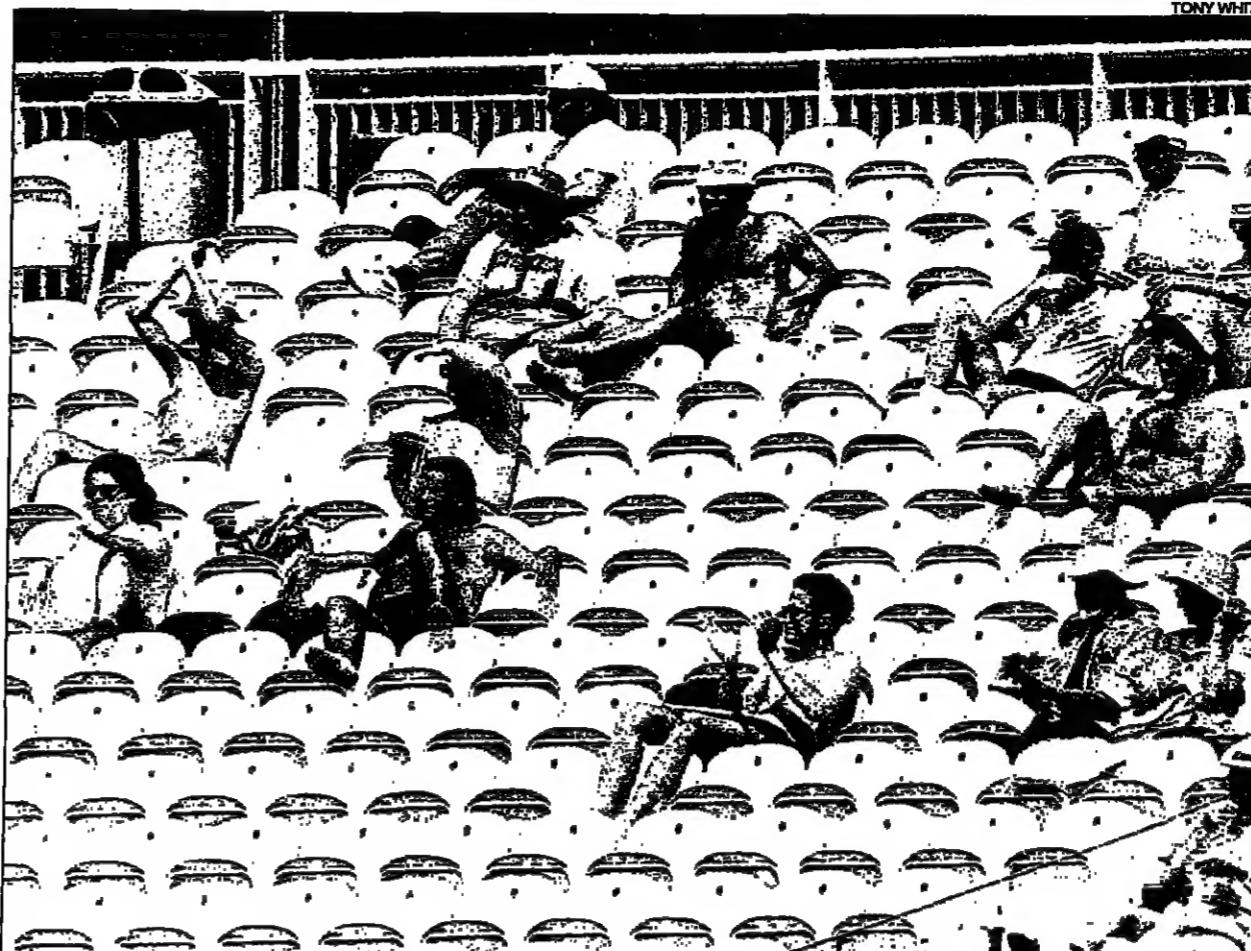
As far as the Palace is concerned, the Duchess may do what she wishes provided she does not bring disrepute upon her former family. Her principal difficulty will be in explaining the celebrated toe-sucking episode with the American financial adviser John Bryan, conducted whilst topless at a Riviera villa and in front of her two children and two apparently slumbering royal protection officers from the Metropolitan Police.

If the Duchess were to overstep the mark, the Palace would have two options. It could freeze payments on her divorce settlement but such a move is unlikely as £1.4 million of it has been put in trust for her children.

The other option is to seek a High Court injunction preventing the book's publication. Were the application to be successful, the book would not appear in Britain, and any money made from it elsewhere would be frozen by the courts.

Injunctions that apply internationally are theoretically possible to obtain, but almost impossible to impose overseas. The Palace is unlikely to go to the trouble and expense of seeking injunctions in the American courts, where there is every likelihood that they would not be granted.

One further question remains. As the Duchess's two hardbacks on the life and travels of Queen Victoria were written largely with the help of respected but anonymous academics, will she be hiring a ghostwriter to tell her life story?



Cricket fans soak up the June sunshine as they watch Middlesex play Glamorgan at Lord's yesterday

Pollution alert announced as sizzling capital leaves Naples in the shade

BY NICK NUTTALL

BRITAIN had the hottest day of the year yesterday, with the capital hotter than Naples, as warm air swept in from the Continent.

The hottest place in the country was Gravesend, in Kent, where thermometers reached 30.8C (88F). The bookmakers William Hill quoted odds of 5-1 that the country's highest temperature on record, 98.76F, would be surpassed this year.

Further north, the weather was bright but cooler, with highs of 25C recorded in Birmingham and 20C in Manchester. Rain clouds

began to clear from Scotland and the Northern Isles.

Thunderstorms are forecast for later today, and a slightly cooler weekend.

An air pollution alert was announced for most of England and Wales yesterday for the first time this summer as bright sunlight and still air combined with traffic and factory fumes.

Health experts gave warning that millions of people, including joggers and sports enthusiasts, could suffer chest pains and breathing difficulties. The Government's air quality experts gave warning that levels of high pollution, experienced

in London and the South East yesterday, were set to spread to many areas.

The pollution alert, which covers most of England and Wales, comes during National Bike Week, and next week is the government-backed Green Transport Week. A campaign urging people to leave the car at home is also running.

Mary Stevens, of the National Society for Clean Air, said yesterday: "The levels of pollution show that, landable though these initiatives are, it is down to government to take decisive action to ensure that clean air is achieved for all by 2005." The society

expressed dismay that the Environment Department had not published its draft national air quality strategy.

Last year John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced that local councils were being asked to submit plans on how they would like to cut air pollution. Ms Stevens said until councils knew what air quality and health standards the Government was setting, many would be unable to draft plans. The society believes interdepartmental wranglings in Whitehall are causing the delay.

Forecast, page 24

Detective warned of Hamilton gun risk five years ago

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A DETECTIVE gave warning five years ago that Thomas Hamilton was an unstable, deceitful and scheming man who posed a threat to children and should not have a gun licence.

Senior officers decided to take no action over the warning, however, and a year later Hamilton's firearms certificate was renewed.

The warning was given by Paul Hughes, then a detective sergeant in charge of the child protection unit for Central Scotland Police, after he had investigated Hamilton's summer camp at Loch Lomond-side in 1991.

The Dunblane inquiry, into Hamilton's killing of 16 children and their teacher, was told yesterday that Mr Hughes had prepared a 130-page report for the Procurator Fiscal in Stirling suggesting that Hamilton could be prosecuted on ten counts.

When the Procurator Fiscal decided not to press charges, Mr Hughes sent a strongly worded report to his deputy chief constable, Douglas McMurdo, urging that Hamilton's gun licence be revoked. Mr McMurdo, now Assistant Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, marked the report "no action".

Mr Hughes wrote: "I firmly believe he has an extremely unhealthy interest in young boys, which to a degree appears to have been controlled to date. I would contend that Mr Hamilton will be a risk to children whenever he has access to them."

"He appears to me to be an unsuitable person to possess a firearms certificate in view of the number of occasions he has come to the adverse attention of the police and his

apparent instability. It is his ploy whenever challenged to engage in smoke screen tactics which divert attention from the focal issue and this is the purpose for the profusion of correspondence to MPs, procurators fiscal, the chief constable and the like."

"I respectfully request that serious consideration is given to withdrawing this man's firearms certificate as a precautionary measure as it is my opinion that he is a

Mr Hughes told Lord Cullen, who is hearing at inquiry at the Albert Halls in Stirling, that he believed Hamilton was a paedophile but that his tendencies were controlled.

He said that during his investigation he had formed an opinion that Hamilton was capable of violence, and had been concerned when he discovered that Hamilton owned two pistols and was authorised to hold two more guns.

The inquiry was told that during the 1991 camp one boy alleged he was taken to an individual tent by Hamilton and photographed. He was the only boy to wear red trunks; all the others wore black trunks.

Mr Hughes, now a detective chief inspector, said that he believed the boy was being singled out by Hamilton and groomed for further abuse. He said Hamilton had also forced boys to take part in a video of a *Lord of the Flies* theme. One boy was made to lie in shallow water. The others were drenched in a rain shower and ended up cold and wet.

The police recovered 279 slides and 72 photographs of boys at the camp. None was judged to be indecent.

The report was initially passed to Superintendent John Miller, who wrote on it

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Mr Hughes wrote that Hamilton had assaulted a boy three times in the first two days of the camp. A child had made allegations that Hamilton had induced him to pose as a *Lord of the Flies* theme. One boy was made to lie in shallow water. The others were drenched in a rain shower and ended up cold and wet.

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SECOND-HAND TOBACCO SMOKE IN PERSPECTIVE

**Is everything bad for us?
Or are we getting things
out of proportion?**

Almost every day, it seems that one thing or another has been discovered to be some kind of health risk.

In one scientific study, even the ordinary biscuit was linked to heart disease.

But as common sense suggests (and scientists confirm) not everything described statistically as a risk is a meaningful risk.

For example, lots of people have been persuaded that second-hand tobacco smoke is harmful.

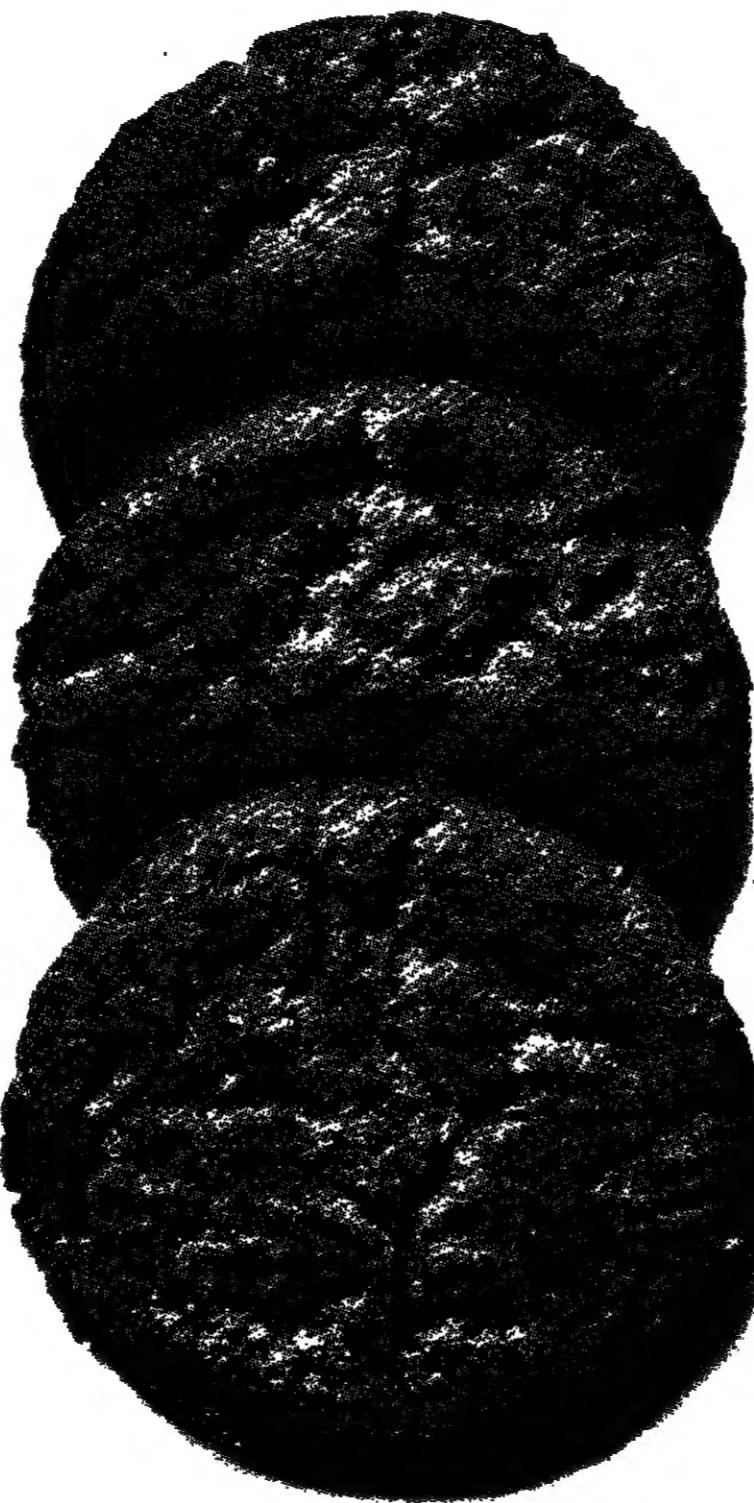
Not surprising, perhaps.

After all, we recognise that smoking itself is a risk factor for certain human diseases and that some people find second-hand tobacco smoke unappealing and unpleasant.

**But what about second-hand tobacco smoke?
Is it really a meaningful health risk to people
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Not, we think. If you look at the evidence.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted a major review of studies on the risks of second-hand tobacco smoke to non-smokers. These studies typically involve non-smokers living with smokers over a long period, such as 20 years.



And this review put the risk of lung cancer from second-hand tobacco smoke at a level well below the risk reported by other studies for many everyday items and activities.

And below, in fact, the risk to health that one other study reported for eating one biscuit a day.

As the table below shows, many everyday activities have been statistically associated at one time or another with apparent risks to health.

But reputable scientists say that weak associations aren't necessarily meaningful.

So there's no big campaign to persuade you to give up your daily biscuit.

Nor is there any sound justification for

a campaign against second-hand tobacco smoke.

If you'd like to decide for yourself, please write to us at Philip Morris Europe S.A., c/o P.O. Box 107, 1000 AC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel. 020 421 00 00.

We'll send you the evidence about second-hand smoke.

We believe you'll find the case convincing.

Everyday Activities	Reported Relative Risk*	Reported Health Effect	Scientific Study Reference
Diet highest in saturated fat	6.14	Lung cancer	Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 85, p.1906 (1993)
Non-vegetarian v vegetarian diet	3.08	Heart disease	American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Vol. 31, p. S191 (1978)
Frequently cooking with rapeseed oil	2.80	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 40, p. 604 (1987)
Drinking 1-2 glasses of whole milk per day	1.62	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 43, p. 608 (1989)
Eating one biscuit a day	1.49	Heart disease	Lancet, Vol. 341, p. 581 (1993)
Drinking chlorinated water	1.38	Rectal cancer	American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 82, p. 955 (1992)
Eating pepper frequently	1.30	Mortality	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 119, p. 775 (1984)
Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke	1.19	Lung cancer	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1992)
High vegetable diet	0.37	Lung cancer	International Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 25, Suppl. 1, p. 32 (1996)
High fruit diet	0.31	Lung cancer	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 133, p. 683 (1991)

Philip Morris Europe S.A.

THE TIMES
Antiques
How
raised
from

Unknown long-lost n.

FOR almost two centuries the location of Antonio Canova's Cupid statue has been a mystery. The commanding statue in Rome is believed to be the one that was well-known in the 1780s as was its arrival at 14 Lower Street, Dublin, on 22 August 1782. There it was unopened and placed in a parlour of John Latouche's residence. Latouche, the son of a banker, was the man who commissioned the statue. During his grand tour of Europe, Canova had met and developed a valuable友情 with the Englishman, John Campbell, and Latouche had appeared to him as a good customer. In the early 1800s, the history of the statue becomes unclear. It was sold in 1835, as a result of the collapse of its interior structure, and was subsequently placed on a turntable in the Royal Exchange, London, to view from

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Antiques dealer tells of finding Canova statue under rhododendron bush in West Country garden

JULIAN HERBERT

How Mr Lazarus raised £1m Cupid from the dead

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND RICHARD DUCE

AN ANTIQUES dealer who started his working life as a Bermondsey market-trader emerged yesterday as the man who discovered a £1 million Canova sculpture in a West Country garden.

The identity of the finder has intrigued the art world since Sotheby's announced the discovery of the missing *amorino*, or Cupid, earlier this week. He is David Lazarus, who runs a modest shop in a Hampshire village, specialising in 17th to early 19th-century English and Continental objets d'art. He established the business in 1975, having worked in the women's sportswear business and as a trader at Bermondsey and Portobello Road markets.

After being traced to his shop in Hartley Wintney, he agreed to talk of a discovery about which most dealers can only dream and of the four years' research spent in proving the value of his find. Mr Lazarus, who is single and in his late fifties, insisted that, at first, he had no idea of the sculpture's significance but was reluctant to reveal the exact circumstances of the find, apart from to say that it came from a garden in the West Country.

Mr Lazarus, who also deals in garden statuary, explained that he was contacted by the former owner, who had just moved house. The man, who had dealt with Mr Lazarus in

the past, wanted to sell a number of sculptures he had brought with him from his previous home.

Mr Lazarus was taken to see the Canova one rainy day in 1992. After decades of being exposed to the elements, it was engulfed by lichen and weeds and not looking its best: "It was covered in muck and had bits missing."

The garden, like the house, was being renovated. The Canova, carved in the early 1790s, was standing, without a plinth, under a rhododendron bush and a plastic cover. The two men dragged it out to get a better look.

"I took a step back, looked at it and thought, 'It's got something,'" Mr Lazarus said. Turning down the other pieces and relying on gut instinct, he made an offer for the Canova, but would not disclose how much.

"He wanted to think about it. He mulled it over. I increased the offer." Over a period of four to six weeks, a "fair deal" was negotiated, said Mr Lazarus, who drove off with the statue in the back of a Volvo.

He had the statue restored, removing the coat of white paint that, for some reason, had been applied in the past. After taking it to a restorer, he embarked on four years of painstaking research.

He had been told by the seller that it had been in his

family's hands from the 1960s: "They acquired it from a property in North Wales." He would not divulge any more.

"How would you feel if I purchased something from you and then told the world?"

Libraries and archives throughout Europe became a home from home as searched for information. "Once we had an inkling on the Canova field, then we started. Certain things were said to me. One thing led to another."

He had Canova's letters translated and found references to a base for an *amorino* that matched his. Eventually, he tracked down the leading Canova scholar, Hugh Honour, who authenticated it. "When he came to see it, he said, 'Yes', with no reservations." Mr Lazarus kept it in a secure warehouse, unable to

afford the insurance. Continuing to research the provenance, he placed advertisements in newspapers in North Wales: a caption under a photograph asked for anyone with information to come forward. The inquiries drew a blank until Mr Honour

identified Canova's hand on the life-sized figure.

Mr Lazarus, who has been trading for 35 years, recently became a member of the British Antique Dealers Association. Its strict vetting system means that only 429 of Britain's estimated 12,000

dealers are members. Members have to be proposed and seconded and approved by independent consultants who visit the shop and scrutinise the quality of stock and labelling.

He had a stand at the association's fair this year and

last year, which was described as "a mark of distinction" by Elaine Dean, the association's secretary-general. She added: "He had very interesting objects. It is not surprising that he's come up with something interesting."

The Canova will be sold at Sotheby's on July 4.



David Lazarus's shop in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire. He began his working life on market stalls in Bermondsey and the Portobello Road



Samantha Barker of Sotheby's with the Canova Cupid. It is expected to fetch £1 million at auction

Unknown past of long-lost marvel

BY RICHARD DUCE AND DALYA ALBERGE

FOR almost two centuries the location of Antonio Canova's Cupid statue has been a mystery.

The commissioning of the statue in Rome in the late 1700s was well-documented, as was its arrival at Harcourt Street, Dublin, on August 14, 1792. There it was carefully unpacked and placed in the parlour of John David Latouche.

Latouche, the son of a banker, was 17 when he commissioned the statue during his grand tour of Italy in 1789. Canova had just completed a statue for another Englishman, Colonel John Campbell, and Latouche was prepared to pay £250 for a similar work.

By the early 19th century, the history of the piece becomes unclear. Latouche died in 1858, at a time when sculpture was an acceptable feature of interior design: it would probably have been placed on a turntable for visitors to view from different

CORRECTIONS

Mr Timothy Colart (High Society, June 5) has not retired and is still fully practising as a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist.

The photograph accompanying the obituary yesterday of Lord Cameron was, in fact, that of his son, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom. We apologise for the error.



According to Irish genealogists, the direct Latouche line is no longer extant. Bellevue fell into disrepair and was demolished soon after the Second World War.

Some time in the 19th century the statue is thought to have crossed the Irish Sea to North Wales, where descendants of Latouche once lived.

It was rediscovered there sometime in the 1960s and brought to the West Country, where it was seen by David Lazarus.

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Charity for crime victims attacks rival campaign

By RICHARD FORD

HOME CORRESPONDENT

A CHARITY with government backing that supports the victims of crime yesterday criticised a rival charity run by a policeman.

Detective Constable Norman Brennan has started several campaigns over the past few years and has appeared repeatedly in the media highlighting attacks he has suffered as a British Transport Police officer.

Yesterday he launched a campaign for one charity he founded, the Victims of Crime Trust, with the support of the mothers of two murdered children, James Bulger and the Moors victim Lesley Ann Downey. The campaign aims to raise up to £3 million for a 24-hour helpline offering support and counselling.

Detective Constable Brennan, 36, has previously launched lone campaigns on improved protective clothing for police and for their routine arming. His latest initiative was criticised by British



Norman Brennan, no stranger to headlines, invited Ann and Alan West, the parents of Lesley Ann Downey, and, right, Denise Bulger, to yesterday's media launch

Detective 'breaks ranks' to plead for better protection

By KAREN ALLODGE

A POLICE officer who has been condemned for having an affair with a 16-year-old girl yesterday said yesterday that he was prepared to sacrifice his

"I swore allegiance to the force."

Det. Const. Norman Brennan, 36, has previously launched lone campaigns on improved protective clothing for police and for their routine arming. His latest initiative was criticised by British

Transport Police. A spokesman said: "He has these launches every so often. Back in 1990 he was going to raise £1 million in six months. We carried his announcement of his resignation in our staff newspaper. It never happened". When he founded Victims of Crime Trust in 1994, Detective Constable Brennan said again he would

resign from the force the following year but he remains a serving officer.

Officials from Victim Support, sponsored by the Home Office, reacted angrily to his fundraising initiative, which threatens to starve it of funds from charitable trusts. A statement said: "While we are aware of Mr Brennan, we have no prior knowledge of his

plans to relaunch his trust. We have our own plans to establish a helpline."

Detective Constable Brennan said yesterday that senior managers of the force had been embarrassed by his campaign and by the support he had won from the public and rank-and-file officers. "I had mega-opposition. It almost brought me to my knees but it



MICHAEL POWELL

News in brief

Killer taken to Appeal Court by public train

A judge expressed surprise yesterday that authorities at Ravenswood Hospital, Hampshire, a secure unit, transported a psychopath who killed her son to court in London by train.

Sitting at the Court of Appeal, Mrs Justice Ebsworth ordered that Tara Beale be detained indefinitely at the hospital. She said Beale, 25, of Wareham, Dorset, could pose a danger to the public. Earlier this year, at Winchester Crown Court, Beale admitted the manslaughter of Nathan, aged ten.

Doctor's suicide

A verdict of suicide was returned at an Oxford inquest into the death of Dr Patrick Alesworth, who hanged himself from a tree at Fair Mile psychiatric hospital, Wallingford, after being convicted last year of the manslaughter of his daughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

£110,000 for slip

A teacher won £110,000 compensation in a out-of-court settlement with Dorset County Council after slipping on a highly polished floor and breaking her hip. Diana Stainer, 57, needed a hip replacement operation after the fall six years ago at Winton School, Bournemouth, and has not worked since.

Chief inspector

David O'Dowd, former Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, is to become the next Chief Inspector of Constabulary later this summer. Mr O'Dowd, 54, is currently the inspector of constabulary responsible for checking a group of forces in the South East, East Anglia and the Midlands.

Monty returns

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Bomb trial ruling

A man awaiting trial in connection with the Israeli Embassy bomb attack in London should remain in custody, the High Court ruled. Mahmoud Abu-Wardh's lawyers say he will have been held for 389 days before the trial, and the custody time limit is 112 days.

A fine mess

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Social workers unable to house arson suspect

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SOCIAL WORKER is shadowing every move of a 12-year-old alleged arsonist because there is no place in any suitable secure accommodation in England or Wales.

The boy appeared before magistrates in Keighley, West Yorkshire, on Wednesday accused of starting a £50,000 fire at a pub on Monday. The court agreed to a remand to a secure unit and Bradford social services successfully applied for the appropriate order from the Department of Health, which has responsibility in such circumstances.

Last night, social workers had still failed to find any unit with a spare place. A spokesman for Bradford social services said: "No places were available throughout the country in secure accommodation. We are continuing to make inquiries and he will be placed as soon as accommodation is available. Until then he is under one-to-one supervision 24 hours a day."

Staff contacted 23 centres without success. They also made three separate approaches for help to the national clearing house for beds in local authority homes run by Leeds City Council, but to no avail.

Bradford rejected a claim by the Department of Health that at least four secure places were available on Wednesday, one at Glen House in Southampton and three at Netherthorpe Park near Morpeth, Northumberland. "Glen House told us it had no vacancies and Netherthorpe Park refused to take the boy," said an official, who also discounted suggestions from the department that reserve places were always

provided.

Courts have no powers to remand children under 15 to secure units without the special sanction of the Health Department. Young offenders are usually put in local authority care, but social workers have no authority to physically detain them.

Daffodils herald golden age for Alzheimer's research

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THOSE who think that Wordsworth's poetry has said all there is to be said about daffodils haven't kept abreast with recent medical research into the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Two types of daffodil, and the caucasian snowdrop, have been found to be rich in the chemical galanthamine, which shows promise in the treatment of the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

The rich harvest is found in a variety called ice folly, which has almost white petals and a dark yellow trumpet, and a variety called cartoon, with a bright yellow flower. Many hosts of daffodils are required, however.

Chemists need ten tons of bulbs to produce one kilogram of the drug.

Alzheimer's, the most common cause of senile dementia, attacks people of every class, whatever their intelligence, and no group is exempt. It can start while patients are still in their prime but becomes increasingly common as age advances.

Bishops, peers, academics, neuroscientists and families of patients met at the Science Museum in London this week to discuss future research into the prevention, treatment and cure of Alzheimer's. An international research centre is to be built at a cost of £1 million at Cambridge, which already has a team of neuroscientists

working on the condition. Alzheimer's is always considered pre-eminently a disease of loss of memory. Although this is often an early symptom, more striking is the disintegration of the sufferer's personality. The condition progresses insidiously and as it does so the patient is liable to suffer depression and paranoia.

Eventually they recognise nobody and are unable to undertake any of the normal body

functions.

There are several other causes of dementia besides Alzheimer's and correct diagnosis using MRI scanning is essential. Some causes of senile dementia can be treated and in others the drugs prescribed for Alzheimer's could be harmful.

Although the cause of Alzheimer's is not known, an increasing amount is being learned about those at risk of developing it. For a minority there is an obvious family history and in these cases a genetic pattern is being unravelled. The changes in the brain

that are seen with Alzheimer's, both biochemical and structural, are also better understood. It is the possibility of minimising the biochemical changes by using the acetylcholinesterase-inhibitor group of drugs which is most likely to be immediately rewarding for researchers.

The pharmaceutical company Warner Lambert has been working on Tacrine, but the drug's liver toxicity has prevented it from being licensed in Britain. At the same time the international pharmaceutical firm Janssen has been investigating galanthamine with two British companies Shire and McFarlan Smith. Galanthamine is less powerful than Tacrine but kinder to the liver.

Even before the Alzheimer's Research Trust has built its new centre, a piece of research has offered some comfort to those people who have one of the inherited forms of Alzheimer's: its onset is delayed by smoking cigars and drinking wine.

News in brief

Killer taken to Appeal Court by public train

A judge expressed surprise yesterday that authorities at Ravenswood Hospital, Hampshire, a secure unit, transported a psychopath who killed her son to court in London by train.

Sitting at the Court of Appeal, Mrs Justice Ebsworth ordered that Tara Beale be detained indefinitely at the hospital. She said Beale, 25, of Wareham, Dorset, could pose a danger to the public. Earlier this year, at Winchester Crown Court, Beale admitted the manslaughter of Nathan, aged ten.

Doctor's suicide

A verdict of suicide was returned at an Oxford inquest into the death of Dr Patrick Alesworth, who hanged himself from a tree at Fair Mile psychiatric hospital, Wallingford, after being convicted last year of the manslaughter of his daughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

£110,000 for slip

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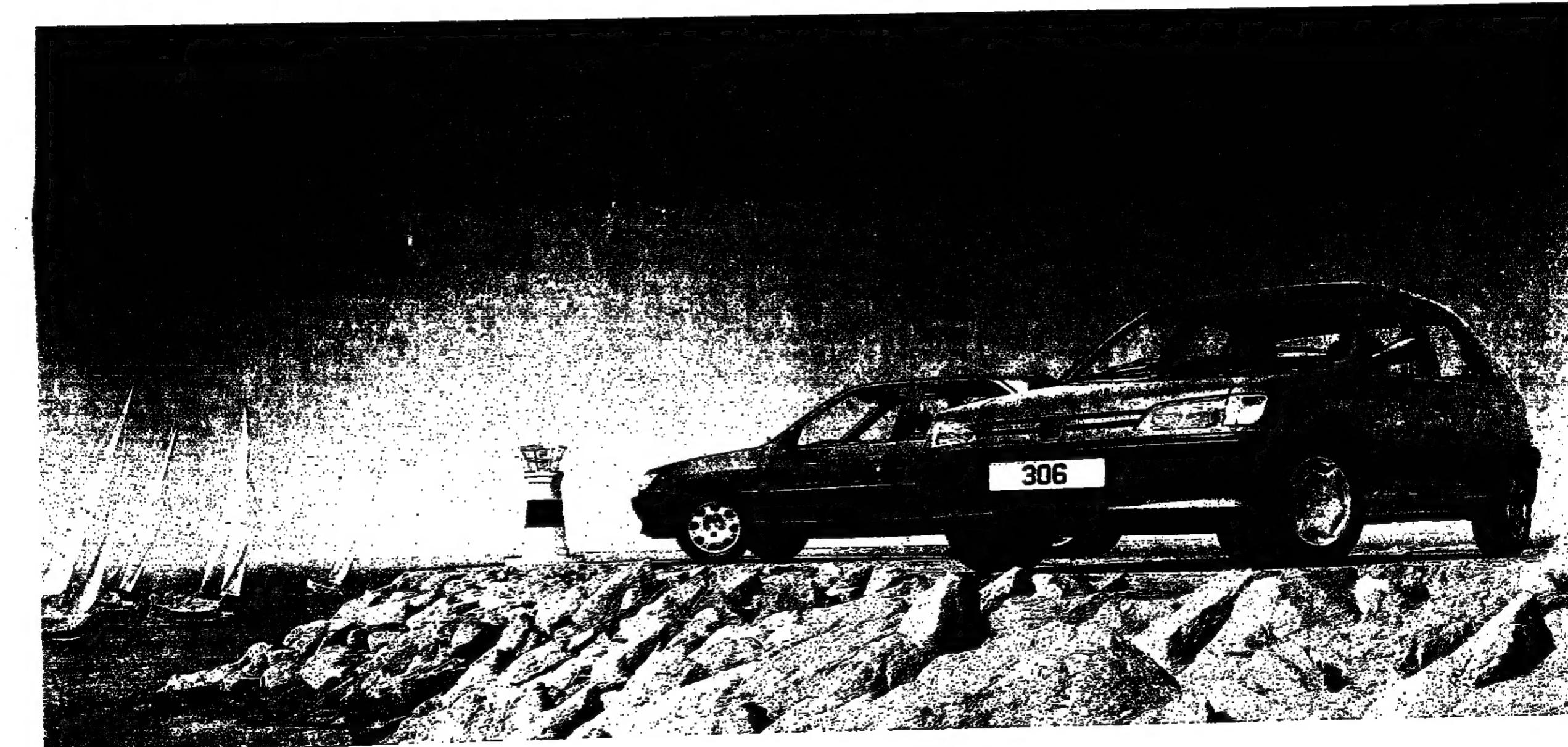
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company money," Say "*I know*." You could, if feeling particularly bullish, put the lid on it by saying you already have it under control. Couldn't you? 0800 316 2162.

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'People are no longer prepared to put up with this sort of environmental damage'

Battling shires oppose freight railway project

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A REVOLT is being raised in the shires to kill off a proposed £3 billion private freight railway through the heart of England to the Channel Tunnel.

Backers say the 180-mile line from Rugby to Folkestone would take up to a million lorries a year off the roads. But residents and Tory MPs along the route say it would blight some of the finest countryside and thousands of homes.

The consortium, Central Railway, said the project would require no public money. The 300 largely unknown shareholders have invested about £9 million so far.

A Bill introducing the proposal, the biggest rail scheme in Britain this century, is due to be put to the Commons by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, next month or in the early autumn.

Sir Michael Shersby, Tory MP for Uxbridge, said: "There is huge opposition because of the terrible precedent this would create for the green belt. It is not a nimby issue. These proposals will transform the area as it is now into

an industrial development with all the noise and dirt that goes with it. People are no longer prepared to put up with this sort of environmental damage."

At least 20 MPs have said they will oppose the Bill, which is expected to be decided on a free vote. The Government is officially neutral, but there is little sympathy for the project at the Department of Transport. "The blight problem will be very serious and there are quite significant shortcomings in the financial backing," a source said.

A spokesman for Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said yesterday that Labour opposed "this totally unworkable scheme".

The line would open in 2001. Most of the track would run beside existing passenger lines through Kent and Buckinghamshire, where Central would take over the existing Chiltern passenger franchise. It has promised new stations at Lutterworth, Rugby, Woodford Halse and Brackley.

The disused Great Central



Shersby: one of at least 20 MPs to oppose Bill

Railway from Princes Risborough to Rugby, axed in the Beeching era, would be reinstated. The only sections of new line would be a six-mile tunnel under the Thames from Shepherds Bush to Streatham, and a four-mile tunnel beneath the North Downs.

Trucks would be loaded at two depots, near Rugby and at Uxbridge, west London, and up to ten trains an hour, each a half-mile long, would run to

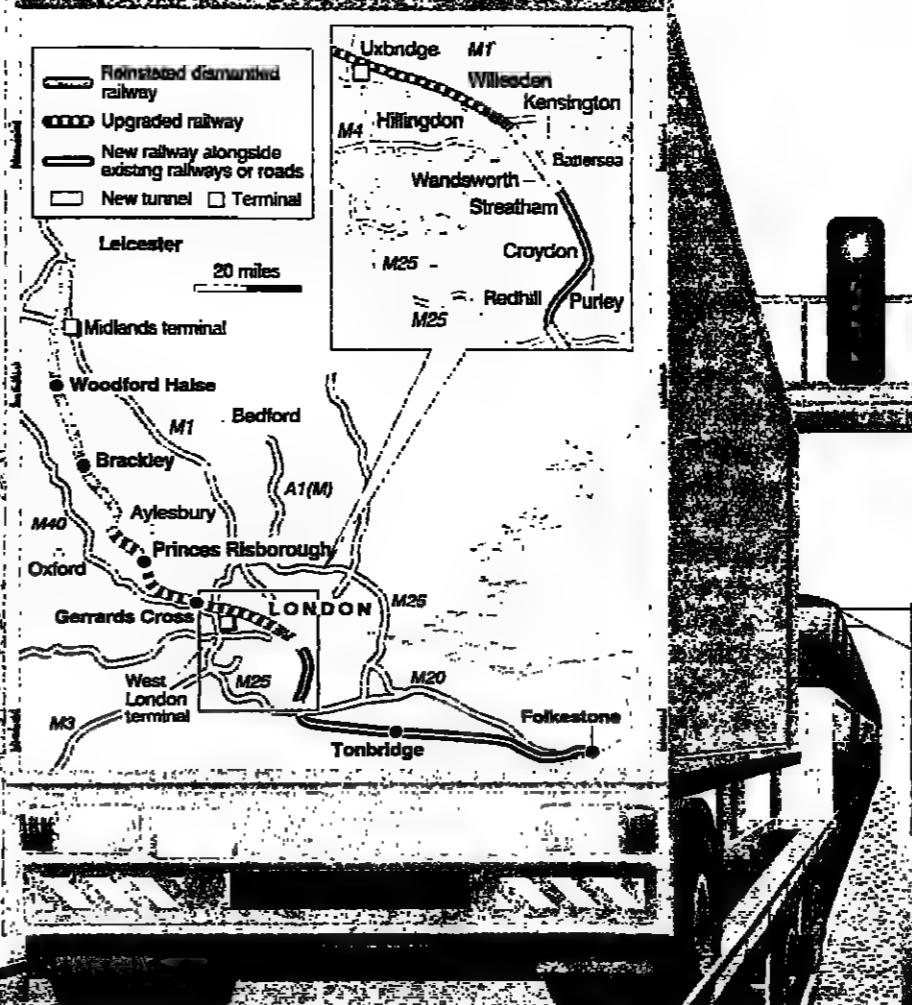
a depot probably near Lille in northern France. About 100 houses would be demolished and the value of thousands more would drop. Andrew Gritten, chairman of Central Railway, said the householders would be offered generous compensation.

Mr Gritten, a former member of the Centre for Policy Studies, said shareholders included well-known City investors and Mott MacDonald, the engineering consultants. The French railway SNCF was involved in the plans. A further £25 million would be raised by a share issue if Parliament approved the plan.

The vote will be the first big test of the 1992 Transport and Works Act, under which the Government is obliged to submit to Parliament schemes that are deemed to be of national significance.

If both Houses of Parliament gave backing there would be a public inquiry, with the final decision left to the Transport Secretary. A 42-day objection period, which allows the public to put criticisms to the Government and Central, ends on July 1.

PROPOSED CENTRAL RAILWAY



Transport advisers back tax penalties

By IAN MURRAY

NEW taxes to force private cars off the road and to penalise inefficient lorries use must be introduced quickly if Britain's transport system is not to clog up within the next decade, according to a report published yesterday by a government-backed think-tank.

The report said that deteriorating ecological, economic and social circumstances were likely to make "draconian State intervention inevitable" if trends continued.

The think-tank, set up by the Government after the Rio earth summit, is co-chaired by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Professor Sir Richard Southwood, a former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University. Called the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development, the group says it is the first to prepare a comprehensive strategy for coping with the environmental impact of transport.

Issued on the day the contract for building the Newbury bypass was granted, the report said public expenditure must move away from roadbuilding and switch to other transport modes.

Peugeot workers walk out to block four-week break

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

NEARLY 3,000 Peugeot car workers are on strike because their French bosses want them to take off the whole of August.

The walkout is expected to mean lost production of 120 cars, worth almost £1.5 million, and could jeopardise future investment at the Ryton plant in Coventry. It raise echoes of industrial Britain 20 years ago, when car factories would strike over the length of tea breaks.

Night workers walked out last night and will be joined by the day shift this morning. They are striking because the obligatory August holiday means they will not be able to take any time off in September, when their wives and families working in local factories traditionally have a week's holiday. They say that, if they are forced to take August as leave, they are likely to spend most of their holiday alone.

Peugeot wants Ryton to conform to the holiday breaks taken by its sister plants in France, to ease problems in supplying components vital for assembly lines. Ryton workers already take three weeks' leave in August, but the French car industry shuts down for the whole month.

John McHenry, plant convenor for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday: "There are two issues at stake here. The workers have relatives, perhaps wives and girlfriends who work and may be able to take holiday in August. It

will be very inconvenient. Also there is the principle of the whole thing. They don't see why they should be forced to take this holiday just because it happens in France."

Ryton, on the outskirts of Coventry, is an outpost of Peugeot's empire. Although it builds the 306 model, it relies heavily on receiving parts, such as engines and body panels, from France.

Peugeot has told workers that the factory will close in August no matter what action they take. Workers are allowed five other days and can tot up extra days as holiday.

However, Tony Woodley, the union's national officer, gave a warning of further action unless Peugeot returned to negotiations. He said: "We are available for talks but official procedures have been exhausted."

Peugeot acquired Ryton in 1975 when it bought — reputedly for \$1 — the ailing British business owned by Chrysler. It has invested heavily in the plant and Ryton's workers have made big improvements in productivity.

The company is considering where to build the replacement model for the discontinued 205. New investment could be worth at least £100 million and would strengthen Ryton's position in the group. However, a series of strikes would almost certainly lead the French to decide that they would be better investing elsewhere.

EUROPEAN HOLIDAYS

Southern European countries generally shut down for the whole of August, but in northern Europe the holiday season is more staggered.

The French like to take most or all of August off and some see Bastille Day, July 14, as the beginning of the holiday season. Visitors to Paris in August can often run into Americans and Japanese rather than locals.

Spain and Italy are usually "shut" in August. The consensus is that it is too hot to work.

Germany has a less rigid holiday policy. Many people go away in August, but not all factories close.

Sweden takes advantage of the long midsummer daylight by concentrating on July as the main holiday month. Schools break up in June and the children are back behind their desks by mid-August.

Minister moves quickly to save bypass snail

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND NORMAN HAMMOND

A COLONY of rare snails is to be moved to a habitat away from the route of the Newbury bypass so it can be built without threat to them, the Government announced yesterday.

Announcing that the £74 million contract was being awarded to the construction firm Costain, John Wates, the Roads Minister, said in a written Commons answer that the Government would follow advice from English Nature, reducing the amount of land claimed from the Desmoulins snails' habitat and creating a new larger habitat.

Costain is to employ a security firm to patrol the site during the contract. About 75 protesters were camped near by yesterday and hundreds

The Desmoulins snail: saved by English Nature

more are expected to arrive when earth-moving starts.

It was also announced that the Highways Agency had awarded a contract to the York Archaeological Trust to rescue part of a settlement, dated to between 4,000 and 5,000 BC, along the route. The contract also includes a full excavation to uncover and record finds at the core site near the River Lambourn.

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Parties are closer on European policy than they pretend

The Tory and Labour parties both claim they have very different approaches to Europe. That was a central theme of Robin Cook's curiously patchy, though clearly pro-European, speech at Chatham House yesterday, in which what he did not say was as striking as what he did. The two main parties do have sharply contrasting attitudes, but their policies are more similar than they pretend. That was admitted earlier this week by Douglas Hurd in a burst of post-ministerial candour. P.M.C. as it is known among commentators. In a speech in Paris intended to show that the Tory

approach is not an aberration, he gave warning "against any illusion that a Labour government in Britain, even if elected, might carry out a wholly different policy on Europe".

Admittedly, he said, "there is an important difference of opinion between the two main parties on the social chapter". Labour has yet to explain how its desire not to undermine the competitive position of industry can be squared with qualified majority voting which the chapter involves. The Opposition also favours a limited extension of QMV, not least to take account of enlargement.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

But as Mr Hurd argues: "In other respects I would advise you to look closely at the fine print of the statements on Europe by Robin Cook and Gordon Brown, to analyse the composition of the Labour Party and to consider the advice which any British Government will continue to receive from the Governor of the Bank of England. Any British government will continue to be constrained, and rightly constrained by the views of the British people, which are op-

posed to a superstate without being opposed to Europe."

Mr Hurd is partly right. Labour's statements are guarded. Like the Government, it would keep home, justice, immigration, foreign and defence policies as matters for inter-governmental co-operation by retaining the national veto. Labour's divisions are also not as large as the Tories claim. Apart from a hard core of mainly ageing sceptics, there is little opposition to the leadership over the IGC or social policy. The main argument is about the impact of the Maastricht financial criteria for monetary union for jobs. For most Labour

MPs, these matter more than Tory

worries about loss of sovereignty. Mr Cook was strangely silent on many of these issues. In 19 pages, there was hardly any mention of home or foreign and security policy and none at all of monetary union, the most important and contentious question facing Europe over the next few years.

Instead, Mr Cook talked about Labour's goals for enlargement (shared by all British parties) and for expanded social and regional policies. If Mr Cook was cautious on institutional matters and monetary union, he allied Labour firmly with the more interventionist mod-

el of European socialism. He said enlargement would require not only reform of the common agricultural policy but would "also be impossible without a substantial increase in structural and regional funds". He backed European socialist calls to amend the Maastricht treaty to include the goal of higher employment to complement the existing targets on fiscal management. The financially cautious and pro-European Gordon Brown also emphasises the priority of tackling unemployment. While these goals may be necessary to sell Europe to Labour, there are potentially big price tags.

For all the enthusiasm for "social Europe", the real difference with the Tories is more one of attitude. If the battles within the Tory party since the late 1980s have produced a lowest common denominator approach, Labour in opposition can still present itself as a more positive partner, emphasising the undoubted advantages of Britain's membership of the EU. Mr Cook's talk of a fresh start is easy given the Tories' disarray. As Labour's evasiveness over the beef ban has shown, a Blair government might be cautious in practice.

PETER RIDDELL

Ministers strive to quell revolt over cash for disabled

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is in danger of an embarrassing Commons defeat on Monday in the most serious test of its strength since its majority fell to one.

Tory rebels are demanding a climbdown on part of a Bill that excludes disabled people aged over 65 from receiving a grant in lieu of community care services.

John Bowis, the health minister, was last night considering a compromise package to try to buy off the rebels, who have warned him they will vote against the Government unless they get their way.

The Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill allows local authorities to make direct payments to disabled people who prefer to make their own arrangements for the help that they need. But ministers have excluded the over-65s because they believe that local authorities would be swamped with applications, bringing the prospect of payments to a halt.

Ministers have been accused of running scared ever since the Bill's committee stage, during which the Government suffered two defeats, was completed almost two months ago. But the government whips, aware of the prospect of a backbench re-

volt, delayed the third reading to coincide with the first day of the new Northern Ireland forum on Monday. They gambled that the Ulster MPs would stay behind for the historic first day's proceedings and rob Labour and the Liberal Democrats of maximum fire-power.

But there were strong indications yesterday that six Ulster MPs might be in Westminster to vote against the Government. The whips will do their arithmetic at the weekend. If the calculations look grim Mr Bowis, who talked yesterday to wavering Tories, is expected to signal a last-minute retreat to save the Government's majority.

Mr Bowis was believed to be considering a review of the decision in 12 months but it would be unlikely to be enough to placate the rebels. The Tory MP Sir Andrew Bowden, chairman of the all-party parliamentary pensioners' group, said yesterday: "I fear that the Government will not completely remove the age discrimination rule, which is unacceptable. Unless I am given a concrete guarantee that the minister will introduce a time limit of no more than 12 months for removing the age discrimination barrier,

"They are now trying to come up with a compromise but are floundering. This is not only political mismanagement. This is causing immense concern to the disabled people who are keen to take up direct payments."

Although Labour has sup-

Cook calls for fresh start after beef crisis

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK called yesterday for a "fresh start" in Europe once the beef crisis is over to ensure that conflict is replaced with co-operation.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary doubted whether the Tories would be able to restore Britain's credibility in Europe or whether Tory backbenchers would allow the Government to drop its confrontational stance.

In a distinctly pro-European speech, he explained the present unease – particularly among the business community – about the Government's non-cooperation policy to insist that Labour was the only party that could restore relations.

He told the Royal Institution of International Affairs: "Britain will need a fresh start in Europe after the beef crisis is over. I do not believe that the Conservative Government which has brought Britain into confrontation with Europe is capable of replacing conflict with co-operation." Labour, however, would work within Europe constructively to reform the European Union in contrast to the Tories' policy of obstruction. "Labour can deliver a fresh start for Britain."

Although Labour has sup-

ported selective non-coopera-

tion over the beef crisis, Mr Cook's speech reflected evidence that the Government's policy is not working and has failed to boost the Tories' popularity.

He outlined three priorities for Labour's agenda in Europe: enlargement, tackling unemployment and building a People's Europe. He made no reference, however, to Labour's position on a single currency or whether it would hold a referendum on the issue.

His speech concentrated instead on the importance of the social dimension of Europe. "If we are to restore popular support for the European project it can only be done by demonstrating that Europe can deliver on the issues of

real concern to its people." In said.

Labour would sign up to the social chapter so that British people were not left with the worst rights to consultation of any country in Europe. The party would also join in common action to improve the environment by tackling acid rain and North Sea pollution.

Howells cool on windfall tax plan

BY JILL SHERMAN

A FRONTBENCH Labour MP questioned Gordon Brown's policy of a windfall tax on the privatised utilities yesterday, hinting that it was anti-competitive and would be difficult to implement.

The Shadow Chancellor has made clear that any extra public spending will be pegged to the size of the windfall tax, which is expected to raise £3 billion.

But Kim Howells, Labour's industry spokesman, is understood to have argued against the plan over the past few months. His remarks yesterday reflect concern among some MPs that the tax smacks of short-termism and goes against new Labour's aim to increase competition.

Interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Dr Howells said that companies fearing the effect of the windfall tax "had a point", adding: "The windfall tax is a difficult one." There was, however, a good case for saying that some of the utilities had had a very good deal because they were sold at too low a price. "I'm sure Gordon Brown will work out a way of making that tax work," he added.

Earlier Dr Howells told Labour "to get serious" about the need to make industry competitive if wanted to save the last generation of jobs, youngsters.

Tories deplore media's 'trivia obsession'

BY JAMES LANDALE

SERIOUS analysis of politics and current affairs is being crowded out by the media's obsession with personalities and trivia, a group of senior Tory MPs said yesterday.

Twenty-four MPs have so far backed a Commons early day motion, tabled by the former Chief Whip Tim Renton, deplored the "steep decline in serious reporting and analysis of politics and current affairs". The motion says there is an

"increasing emphasis on personalities rather than policies, and on trivia rather than substance". The MPs are urging newspaper editors to provide a more balanced coverage of public issues.

Mr Renton said the media were simply not providing the public with serious coverage of important issues, such as Europe and social security reforms. The debate on the beef crisis showed how superficial the reporting had become.

"It is easier to write, 'Is Hogg [the Agriculture Minister] going to get the

chop?'; rather than talking about the serious relationship between BSE and CJD and other issues," he said. "We want to put over the heartfelt message that we think the serious stuff is being crowded out in the rush for circulation."

Several former ministers, including Tom King, David Howell and David Hume, have signed the motion. Some of its supporters, however, such as Michael Brown, Tim Devlin and Sir Jerry Wiggin, have at some stage been subject to acute media scrutiny of their personal lives.

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For the life you don't yet know



MPs seek curb on benefit losses

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Social Security Department was criticised by MPs yesterday over the billions of pounds lost through welfare fraud, overspending and inaccurate payments.

MPS on the cross-party Public Accounts Committee demanded tighter checks on the incidence of benefit fraud, estimated to be costing £2 billion a year. About £1.4 billion is lost in fraudulent income support claims.

The MPs were disturbed that the department did not know the scale and pattern of fraud on other benefits, and they called for reviews to uncover the information.

They were also "dismayed" by the number of income support errors. "We consider it unacceptable that these should amount to £848 million in 1994-95 or 5.1 per cent of total expenditure. This extraordinarily high figure includes £546 million of cash overpayments – public money which should not have been spent – and £183 million of cash underpayments – errors which may have caused real hardship to claimants. We look to the department to do much better in future."

The MPs were "disappointed" that the department had overspent in 1994-95 for the third year running, spending £183 million more than forecast on income support.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons, a debate on sport followed by a backbench debate on dental care. The House of Lords is not sitting.

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decreased from 6.00% to 5.75%

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FBI to investigate Clinton demand for 'Travelgate' files

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON



LOUIS FREEH, the director of the FBI, yesterday dragged the Clintons deeper into the political abyss by ordering an investigation into why the White House had demanded background files on the director of its Travel Office seven months after he was dismissed.

Said to have been stunned by Republican revelations that Bernard Nussbaum, the former White House counsel, had requested and obtained 30 years of FBI material on Billy Dale, the Travel Office director dismissed by the Clintons, Mr Freeh said he had asked for a "thorough inquiry". The bureau investigation, results of which will be sent to Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel on Whitewater, brought a chorus of criticism from Republicans.

Mr Dale and six of his colleagues were dismissed from the Travel Office in 1993, soon after President Clinton assumed office. The President's opponents have argued that Mr Dale was the victim of efforts by the First Family to give business to a company owned by Harry Thomson, their close friend.

William Clinger, the Pennsylvania Republican and chairman of the House government reform and oversight committee, said the memos from Mr Nussbaum demonstrated "a vexing abuse of power engaged in by the White House".

Mr Nussbaum, who was himself ousted in 1994 for involvement in the doomed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas, issued a statement denying that such a request had been made by anyone in the White House. On at least

one page, dated December 20, 1993, and stamped "The White House", the former counsel is known to have asked for the FBI background check.

Eight days later, the same document was returned with the bureau's report and a cover note which stated: "In response to your request, there are attached 11 letters and 11 memos and reports which may relate to the subject of your inquiry".

The White House said Mr Dale's records might have been sought mistakenly to complete unfinished information folders on former employees, but Mr Nussbaum's original memo said they had been requested because Mr Dale was seeking "access" to return to the Administration.

Mr Dale, who claims he was blacklisted from the building after he was indicted on embezzlement charges — accusations on which he was acquitted last year — yesterday denied he had ever tried to return to Washington.

"What do you expect from them?" he asked. "You catch

them red-handed and its the same old story — they say they did nothing wrong."

The Nussbaum documents emerged among 1,000 pages distributed by the White House to Mr Clinger last week as part of the Clinton Administration's efforts to provide Congress with 43,000 pages relating to "Travelgate".

Although the White House has furnished his committee with most papers, the Administration has fuelled Republicans' critics still further by making its first claim of executive privilege over the remaining 2,000 pages.

The latest scandal over "Travelgate" came as Republicans accused their Democratic colleagues of a cover-up after they refused to grant immunity from prosecution to David Hale, a former Arkansas banker and the only prosecution witness directly to have accused the President of criminal activity.

The Senate Whitewater committee agreed to subpoena Mr Hale for a deposition before Congress today to question his allegations that Mr Clinton had pressured him for an illegal \$300,000 (£195,000) loan. The claim has been denied by the President.

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Reports of Pol Pot's death leak from hideout

Architect of terror 'falls to malaria'

FROM TOM WALKER
IN HONG KONG

POL POT, the Maoist revolutionary whose Cambodian "killing fields" claimed nearly two million lives, may be dead.

According to independent reports from Peking, Bangkok and Phnom Penh, the leader of the notorious Khmer Rouge died earlier this week, probably from malaria. He was 63 and had not been seen in public since 1978, when the Communist Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and put an end to a four-year reign of terror which had virtually taken the country back to the Middle Ages.

Early yesterday the Cambodian Defence and Interior Ministers leaked messages saying Pol Pot was near death. Hours later a Thai journalist working near Aranya Prathet, on the Thailand-Cambodia



Pol Pot, murderer of millions, and a mass grave near Angkor Wat symbolising the era of terror he dominated



border, reported that he had met Khmer Rouge infantrymen who told him they were on their way to Pol Pot's funeral at his stronghold of Phnom Malai, just inside the Cambodian border. A third report, emanating from Pe-

king, said Pol Pot had died on Monday. Sources in Phnom Penh last night said they believed the reports to be true, but were awaiting further news from the Ministry of the Interior. "Our guy in Aranya Prathet has not made a single

mistake in a year and a half," said a journalist with AFP, the French agency which broke the news.

The reports have culminated two months of speculation over Pol Pot's health, which began when King Norodom

Sihanouk, the semi-deity who holds Cambodia's fragile social fabric together, announced in Paris that the Khmer Rouge struggle would wither once their leader had died. If the reports are confirmed, historians will have a

difficult job piecing together the life, times and motivation of a man as reviled in the public psyche as Hitler. While brutal, Pol Pot was a secretive individual; even after he came to power it took analysts more than a year to identify him with certainty as a former schoolteacher named Saloth Sar, who had been secretary of the Cambodian Communist Party since 1960.

Liberating the capital from the hated American-backed Lon Nol regime, Pol Pot quickly went about his vision of a Cambodian "Year Zero," in which the cities were emptied of their inhabitants and intellectuals and the middle classes almost eradicated. His legacy was a vast agricultural labour camp where terror and indoctrination were the rule, immortalised by the film *The Killing Fields*.

The Khmer Rouge still

numbers about 5,000 guerrilla fighters, based mostly along the Thailand-Cambodia frontier.

The leadership of the party is likely to pass to Kieu Samphan, who ironically is known to be in touch with King Sihanouk. In the contested history of post-killing fields Cambodia, the royalists have frequently colluded with the Khmer Rouge in their fight against Communists.

Master of secrecy who led Cambodia into 'killing fields'



James Pringle looks back on a charismatic leader who possessed the hypnotic charm of a cobra. Those who listened felt enlightened

BROTHER NO. 1, as Pol Pot is known in the Khmer Rouge movement, is a political survivor, though even survivors are not immortal. He has had malaria off and on for years and received treatment for the illness in Bangkok.

This time, however, the attack may be fatal, given that he is forced to live in the rainforest about ten miles inside Cambodia at Palin, the nominal Khmer Rouge headquarters.

Officially, he retired as the main military tactician and commander when he was 60. Even to the Khmer Rouge and their then Chinese backers, his image as a murderer who brought the "killing fields" to Cambodia was too black to accommodate as the rebels tried to widen their international appeal. At that stage, he was reportedly in reasonable health, although a right-hand man, Ieng Sary, said: "He lives in the jungle, and anyone who does that has malaria."

Few will mourn his passing, least of all his first wife, Kieu Ponary, who became mentally ill in the 1980s and is believed to be in a mental hospital in China. But two people, his second wife, a peasant woman and Khmer Rouge militant in her late thirties, and their daughter, a girl now about eight, will presumably grieve.

A byword, along with Hitler, Stalin and Mao, for the worst cruelties of the 20th century, Pol Pot has always believed in secrecy. "Secret work is fundamental to all that we do," Pol Pot wrote. "For example, the elections of comrades to leading work are secret. The place where our leaders live are secret. As long as there is a class struggle against imperialism, secret work will remain fundamental. Only through secrecy can we be masters of the situation and win victory over the enemy who cannot find out who is who."

Despite his lack of scruples and the brutality of the movement he headed — the Khmer Rouge was known as "the organisation" in Cambodia, where it governed from 1975 until overthrown by invading Vietnamese in 1978 — Pol Pot has been a man of charisma, with all the hypnotic charm of a cobra.

King Norodom Sihanouk



Sihanouk: he believed Pol Pot was mad

of Cambodia, who was once Pol Pot's prisoner, talked in an interview of a three-hour conversation he had with the Khmer Rouge leader, even as the Vietnamese closed in on Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

"I knew he was mad," he said. "But he talked so well, in such a spellbinding way, that I could not help listening to him without interruption."

A Khmer Rouge defector once said: "Those who hear him feel enlightened by his teaching, his explanations and his vision. He is like a father to us."

Pol Pot, who neglected his studies in radio electronics and failed his exams three times in Paris in the early Fifties, built up a network of Paris-educated, left-wing intellectuals influenced less by Marx than by Mao and his peasant-based revolution, manifested in what proved to be China's disastrous "Great Leap Forward".

Pol Pot used to speak of a "Super Great Leap Forward" and agrarian experiments in Cambodia led to famines worse in proportion to those that afflicted China. Cambodians were forced to eat frogs and insects they found in the

We have to make ourselves like the poorest of the poor, then the people will love us.

fields. Even eating fruit and especially rice, deemed to belong to the "masses" at large, met with instant execution.

One of the strongest influences on the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot was the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, especially his *Social Contract*, where he wrote: "Man is born free and is everywhere in chains."

"We must put ourselves in the same position as the poorest of the poor, then the people will crowd round us and love us," Pol Pot would say.

But Pol Pot enslaved the Cambodian people in the end, so that those who wore spectacles and used tooth brushes were led away for execution by teenage soldiers as "bourgeois elements".

Even near the end, Pol Pot believed his policies leading to an ethnically pure peasant society were right and would have succeeded, except for "sabotage" — he actually believed he should have killed more people. "I was too trusting of others," he said.

It will take time to persuade most Cambodians that Pol Pot is dead or near death. His demise, after all, has been announced many times before.

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From The Times

WHEN President Clinton is here on Sunday, he will be treated to a new gift from the guest of honour: a festival of Saracens, the equivalent of the Saracens.

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Soviet nuclear testing has made northeast Kazakhstan into enclave of the damned

Moscow turns a blind eye as birth defects multiply

FROM MAX EASTERMAN IN SEMIPALATINSK

THREE years ago, when I first visited the villages around the former Soviet nuclear test site in northeast Kazakhstan, I saw the horrors of teratogenic births: children with no eyes, grossly oversize heads, mentally incapable, and a host of other defects.

There were scores of them in the settlements close to the Polygon, as the test site was called. And then there were the thousands more who were aborted, their remains preserved — many in old Exide battery jars — in the Medical Institute in Semipalatinsk.

Publicly, the Russians insisted that radiation was not the cause; it was malnutrition and other "lifestyle defects". The thousands of cancer deaths they attributed to "brucellosis" and "pneumonia". Three years on, the link between birth defects and expo-



A lake used for nuclear waste 30 miles from Sarzhai

sure to radiation has been "conclusively proved" by Boris Gusiev of the Semipalatinsk Radiology and Ecology Institute. Professor Gusiev has laboured under conditions that would have defeated most — salaries paid up to six months late or not at all, and no access to years of research information held by the Russians. But he is in no doubt that what he is now seeing — a constant level of deformed births four to five times higher than the norm, is due to exposure to radiation; it is now affecting the fourth generation in many families.

I heard first-hand testimony of the cynical approach of the Russians to local Kazakhs, in Sarzhai, about a mile from where some of the tests were carried out. I met the former

victims from Sarzhai. The attitude of the Russian authorities, who took all their diagnostic equipment and research data home when the test site closed five years ago, angers Boris Gusiev almost more than the damage done to local people.

He admits that Kazakhstan has few experts capable of analysing the millions of files the Russians hold. "But Kazakhstan is a poor country and we could save so much in time, money and effort if only the Russians would open up those files and put their own specialists to work with us. It could be another five generations before the radiation damage begins to work itself out of our genetic systems."

Recently a group of ex-Polygon scientists did publish some information about the nuclear tests, but this is dismissed by Professor Gusiev as hypocrisy. "The date is so fragmentary, it's really *die-informative*. It's a sop to the public, but half-facts like this are no use to us experts. I can only assume they really don't want us to know the truth."

The Russian reluctance to help their former Kazakh compatriots now contrasts with the gradual realisation in America that there is important information to be gleaned



A toddler, two, from the Semipalatinsk area, who is suffering from immuno-deficiency and thyroid cancer



Misha, nine, from the Semipalatinsk region. He has leukaemia and two cancerous growths in his mouth

from victims of the Soviet tests. The American military put up the money two years ago for Sait Balmukhanov to investigate.

Professor Balmukhanov was one of the first doctors to examine test victims, back in the Fifties, before the KGB shut him up. He has just sent the results of his latest research to Washington. "Radiation", he explained, "has done more than just kill

people and deform them. It is destroying their immune systems, and this immuno-deficiency is being passed from generation to generation."

In Sarzhai, as elsewhere, children are born with greatly reduced resistance to disease. The local schoolteacher told me how they are constantly ill, constantly tired and almost all severely anaemic. The tiniest of cuts can take weeks to heal. Many families cannot afford

to travel to Semipalatinsk for basic treatment. Their local hospital was closed as an economy measure.

Professor Balmukhanov has no idea how long the immuno-deficiency will take to run its course. "Without treatment, we just can't tell. And there's no money, no equipment, no drugs for the right treatment." He has an even worse fear: "We know there's a lot of plutonium in the soil around

the test site. But we've no equipment to measure the levels, so we've no idea what that's doing to people."

"But it must be having some effect: it only takes a minute part of a cell to cause a cancer, and it'll be around for more than 20,000 years — that's its half-life."

Max Easterman reported from Kazakhstan on BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight*.

Obedient Tartar voters prepare to endorse Yeltsin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN KAZAN

WHEN President Yeltsin arrives here on Sunday, he will get the royal treatment. He will cut the tape, opening a new concert hall and be the guest of honour at the Tartar festival of Sabantuy, a Muslim equivalent of the Highland Games.

It is a sharp contrast to the situation three years ago, when voters in the autonomous republic of Tatarstan boycotted parliamentary elections en masse.

But now Tatarstan, like dozens of other Russian regions and institutions, has done a deal with Mr Yeltsin and is marching in step behind him. Taken together, regions like this may make a crucial differ-

ence for the President in his fight for re-election. Tatarstan, an oil-rich region 500 miles east of Moscow, has about three million voters — more than 2 per cent of the electorate.

Moscow and Kazan were at loggerheads for most of 1992 and 1993, before an autonomy agreement was signed in February 1994 that gave Tatarstan substantial economic rights to dispense with its oil revenues but kept it firmly within the Russian Federation.

The pay-off for Mr Yeltsin from such deals has been political support in a region of Russia where the local leader is in a position to deliver votes. Last December in Tatarstan, after President Mintimer Shamiev endorsed the pro-government party Our Home is Russia in the parlia-



mentary elections, it received 29 per cent of the vote — three times the national average.

"Tatarstan is a rigidly controlled republic," said Yuri Nikolayev, editor of Kazan's biggest newspaper, *Kazanskoie Vremya*. There was no

need to falsify the vote in the republic, especially in the villages, because people did what they were told, and any official who stepped out of line risked losing his job.

"Imagine what happens when the President gives orders to the heads of administration in villages to agitate for the elections," said Mr Nikolayev.

In villages and collective farms, many voters just wait to be told what to do on polling day. "I always vote," said Mariya Faizrahmanova, a 73-year-old Tatar woman peering out of a headscarf, who came from a village on the other side of the Volga. But at first she did not know how she was going to vote this time. "For Yeltsin I suppose, who else is there?" she laughed.

A similar story is unfolding in another rigid Russian institution, the army. For more than two million conscript soldiers and sailors, the suspicion is that on polling day a senior officer merely instructs the ranks how to vote and they act accordingly.

General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, embarrassed the President on Wednesday when he announced that sailors voting early on Arctic cruisers and submarines had all voted for Mr Yeltsin.

The mass of votes guaranteed to Mr Yeltsin by such practices inspires cynicism in many voters. "They've already voted for us," said a young worker standing at a Kazan tram stop. But he said that he too would probably back Mr Yeltsin.

Khrushchev missile chief tells of scare

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

IN A risky Soviet test that was kept secret, a nuclear-tipped missile flew over populated areas before landing in the Central Asian desert, a Russian newspaper reported yesterday.

The RSM missile with a 0.3-kiloton nuclear warhead was launched in February 1956, during the Khrushchev era, from the Kapustin Yar testing range near the southern Russian city of Volgograd.

The daily *Trud* quoted Yevgeni Shabarov, a missile designer who took part in the

launch, as saying that the missile had flown 740 miles over southern Russia and Kazakhstan before hitting the targeted site in a desert 90 miles southeast of the Aral Sea, in Central Asia.

"When the experiment ended successfully, we all breathed a sigh of relief," Mr Shabarov said. Experts were ready to send a radio signal to blow the missile up if it strayed off course. The device used for that were "far from perfect, but there was nothing better".

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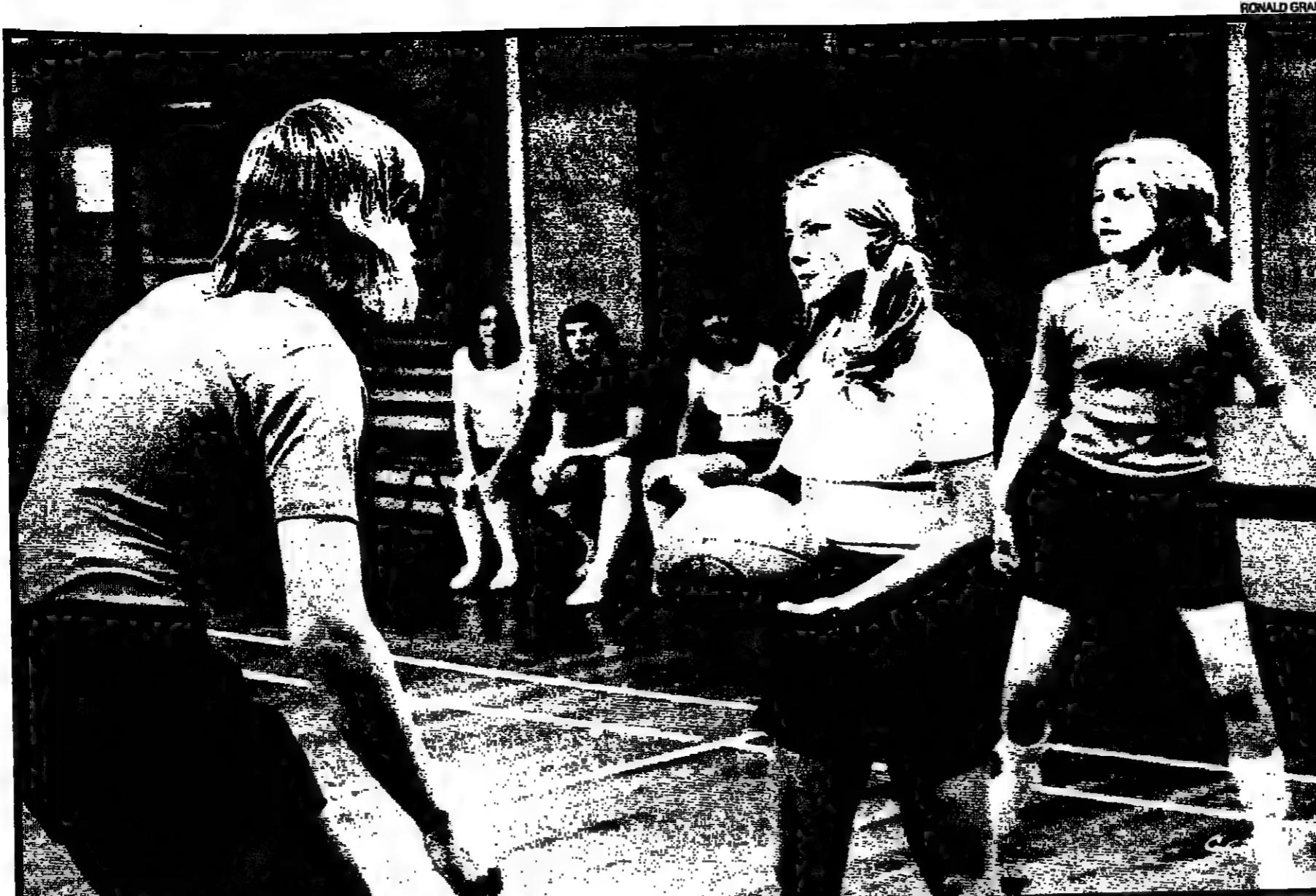
Far too little credit is given to the plucky self-sacrifice of journalists, it seems to me. "Cover Euro 96 for us," they said, and I barely flinched. "All right," I said. "Just point me at it and tell me what it is." I am a woman who once undertook colonic irrigation for a women's magazine, so I now consider myself beyond surprise. By way of independent research I asked a small child on a tricycle what I should do to prepare for Euro 96, and he told me to buy a sticker book. "Hello, I want a Euro 96 sticker book," I said with confidence in W.H. Smith, and a man helped me to find one. It cost just one pound! Hey, I was on my way to Wembley! Only when I got home and shook it fruitlessly several times did I realise I should have bought some stickers as well. Damn. When I went out to look for the small child again (to demand my pound back), he had tricked right off and could not be found.

This is my chance to come clean, so here it is. I know nothing whatever about football. Of the 22 names in the England squad I dimly recognise only three, and one of these — Alan Shearer — I thought had something to do with the holiday business. When I look at the helpful results boxes in the Euro 96 pullouts, I find that I can guess at W (win), D (draw) and L (lose) but I have no idea what to put under F and A except question marks and little flower doodles. No key is provided because they expect you to know. Such pure ignorance has, incidentally, taken a lifetime to attain. It has entailed switching channels with lightning speed at the first, hopeful Pump-Pah-Pah of *Match of the Day*, and also running the bath loudly ("La la la") during the sports bit of the *Today* programme every morning for the past 25 years.

A lot of anti-sport feeling is coming out at the moment. Wives are up in arms, and booking holidays to the North Pole. So will qualify any impression that I am anti-sport. It is more subtle than that: like many women, I am just immune to sport. If the FA Cup Final were taking place at the end of my garden, I would draw the curtains to get better ambient light for *The Antiques Roadshow*. I used to get steamed up about the quantity of sport on television, but now I see it as a blissful negative: a chance to lie down, or do the weeding: a release. Luckily I have never lived with a man who watched sport all day on Saturdays, so I can be fairly unemotional. For many women the

Lynne Truss has always been immune to sport, but for the three weeks of Euro 96 she will join the fans in the stands to find out what the fuss is all about

Don't care. Made to care...



"Netball was easier. I secured a permanent position as goal shooter. This meant I could stand still and talk with my opposing goalkeeper about last night's *Man from Uncle*"

temptation to set fire to the curtains is understandably overwhelming.

People who adore sport can't imagine what it's like not to care. And I suspect this explains my assignment to the sports pages: in the words of the old playground chant: "Don't care. Made to

care..." And of course I love the drama of sport when I'm subjected to it. Wimbledon — a traditional girlie exemption in the gender sports debate — was always a passion, and last year I discovered an unlikely fever for golf, so that when John Daly's name is men-

tioned, I spit on the ground. It's true, I can tell Ernie Els from Frank Nobilo by just one glance at the back of their trousers, and can make learned remarks such as "I see Bernhard's putting hasn't picked up, then, poor German fellow, perhaps it was the strain of

playing in the Ryder Cup." But it must. Yes, I was that lumpish schoolgirl who suddenly remembered an urgent hanky indoors when hockey teams were being chosen, and who bent down to tie her boobies to avoid being picked as goalkeeper. If forced to play this nasty clacky game, I could run only

dreadful at sport oneself? I suppose

it must. Yes, I was that lumpish schoolgirl who suddenly remembered an urgent hanky indoors when hockey teams were being chosen, and who bent down to tie her boobies to avoid being picked as goalkeeper. If forced to play this nasty clacky game, I could run only

20 yards before stopping, dropping my stick, and bending double with heart-thumping fatigue. Stamina and nose-breathing never were my forte. Netball was easier, because we had four teams and I secured a permanent position as goal shooter for the worst one. This meant I could stand still, take a vague interest in the game unfolding at the other end ("six nil!"), and talk with my opposing goalkeeper about last night's *Man from Uncle*.

But I don't really accept this explanation, because I was similarly bad at art, yet I love exhibitions: I can't play an instrument, yet I listen to music. No, my lack of

'If the Cup Final were taking place in my garden, I would draw the curtains to get better light for *The Antiques Roadshow*'

The Antiques Roadshow

curiosity about football must be genetic. I can't blame boyfriends, because no boyfriend has ever been a nuisance in this regard. I can't blame insensitive male friends, because all my football-loving chums stop mid-sentence if they feel a football anecdote coming on. "No, no, you wouldn't be interested," they say, protecting me from their obsession in the same way they might protect me from the details of an operation.

So Euro 96 looks set to be an eye-opener — as was colonic irrigation, if I may say so. I will return to W.H. Smith for some stickers, and report this glorious tournament for *The Times* on behalf of the committed apathetic. Come on, England, and all that. Ho hum. Advice from regular matchgoers suggests I should curb the impulse to pat heads on the train to Wembley. Thanks for that, at least. What a lot there is to learn.



STARTING ON MONDAY

IN THE TIMES
SPORTS SECTION

Read Lynne Truss's alternative view of Euro 96

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Sick as a parrot in any language

Meanwhile lessons in Serbo-Croat are in great demand for those casual football chats, says Giles Coren

When a Dutchman with a shaved head and his face painted orange approaches me at Wembley three Tuesdays from now and says "Oei Dii is uw stiel niet" I will, thanks to the English Tourist Board, know exactly what he means. And I will evacuate my seat forthwith, in the interest of Anglo-Dutch relations.

For there are two sides to British preparations for Euro 96. Most attractive to media attention has been Operation Take-Off, the series of dawn raids on tattooed skinheads who have been instructed by the tabloids to welcome for-



Football platitudes for all

more to do with the fact that they are hosting Denmark, Portugal, Turkey and Croatia," admits Ms Brindley. It may also have something to do with the higher rate of pay being offered to staff who have been on the course.

So if you are lucky enough to find yourself at Portugal v Denmark, and are about to invade the pitch to protest against another heinous infraction, you may find your self exhorted thus: "Hey! Nao pisar o relvaldo!" And you will know that this has nothing to do with the hooligan's most celebrated demonstration of discontent, but is an exhortation to keep off the playing area. If, however, you have concentrated on the Danish you can rampage on to the pitch with a casual "Det kan jeg ikke forstå!" ("I'm sorry, I don't understand").

The English have such a laid-back attitude to languages, says training adviser Susie Brindley, with commendable understatement. "And this is all about being seen to make an effort. It is very important to appear welcoming. We have been running the programme as a general thing for two years, and have tailored this course specifically for Euro 96."

It is at Hillsborough that the courses have been most in demand, with evening classes laid on to cater for the rush. Are the good burghers of Sheffield our most welcoming citizens? "It probably has

thus, in the cultural awareness section, we learn that in Portugal taxis are expected to be plentiful and good value, that Germans expect detailed information, that Russians have great respect for elderly relatives, and that the Swiss like to be greeted when entering shops. I fear our visitors are in for a shock.

Would it not be more manageable to keep the thing strictly to soccer? In the pubs and the clubs, the taxis, buses and ticket queues, it is football that will be talked about. And it is there that cultural differences will be manifested. It is not more important to know whether the average Turk favours a man in the hole behind the front two, or whether Czechs are partial to the sweeper system? And how do the Danes feel about the back-pass law?

One or two real contributions to mutual understanding might be "tribunale in picioare" (Romanian for "over the moon"), "spel as twee helften" (Dutch for "a game of two halves") and "Han har en ananas paa sit hovede" (Danish for "He's got a pineapple on his head").

So I will treat my Dutch friend with courtesy. I will apologise for taking his seat. But I will be hoping that after 90 minutes he is feeling sick as an *papagaai*. Sick, of course, as a parrot.

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Philip Howard



■ Farewell to the good companion of my early morning walks

Heather died shortly after dawn yesterday. She was a week short of her eleventh birthday: in human proportions 77. She fell over outside the fishmonger's at Notting Hill Gate, panting hoarsely and looking puzzled. So I picked her up tenderly, with frantic forebodings, and carried her home. Her daughter and granddaughter did not help by hugging at their leads, confused by this unprecedented change in their routine. She lay on the sofa panting. And then she stopped panting.

In the daily balance of grief and pain, the death of a skinny Jack Russell weighs infinitesimally. Heather started no wars, sat on no committees, made few sound bites. She seldom even yapped — an abnormality in Russells. In geopolitical terms her most notable achievement was to have cleared the Canada geese from the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens. With her daughters and granddaughters she had got the notion that she was a policewoman with the duty of chasing the squirrels up the trees and the geese off the grass. The flock of 300 geese has now given up and moved elsewhere. Even such tough birds could not put up with being roused every morning by dive-bombing attack by a pack of tiny yappers. When her progeny were staying, there were six Russells ineffectually chased by a tall man flapping *The Times*. I also suspect that the proliferation of 30 swans on the Round Pond, about to be joined by five new-season cygnets, squeezed the *Lebensraum* and competition for bread even for Canada geese.

Heather was born in June 1985 in the byre of Glen Crosh, a shepherd's house on the sugarloaf hill outside Monrovia. This is the Dumfriesshire heartland for Blackface sheep, Collie dogs, and belted Galloways that win at Smithfield. She was smooth-haired, black-and-white, and then the size of my thumb. She was selected ahead of her brother on the ground that in all breeds of animals (and humans), bitches are easier to live with than dogs, and less likely to wander off and cause trouble. So she was taken away from her rabbit-warrened hills to live in Wiltshire.

And she adapted well to her traumatic migration from deepest country to inner city. Every day of her life at farm she perambulated the parks clockwise, from Peter Pan to Queen Victoria. Unlike some of her daughters and granddaughters, she liked strangers and other dogs. Snipe, the Scottish cousin, jumped for the throats of rotweilers in her terror, which was as foolish as a human scissor-kicking a Tyrannosaurus rex. Heather posed, wagging her stump of a tail, for the camcorders of Japanese tourists. They took her for a bonsai dog smaller than any they had met. She learnt not to run straight for a squirrel, but to try cut it off from its tree. Her deaf daughters never learnt this, and think that yapping at the foot of a tree will make squirrels fall out. Occasionally she caught a squirrel, and brought it back for her friend, covering his suit with blood and him with confused excuses to Green Scandinavian joggers about there being too many squirrels in the park anyway. She was a flirt, especially with the late Anthony Quayle's *Tiger* and a sparkly French *bichon frise* called Merlin with a passion for Russells.

She was a wonderful mother, giving birth to Haggis and Daisy under the desk while her friend was under the lash writing a column, so providing an unusual excuse for late copy. She suckled and played with her grandchildren from old age, and earlier this week was wagging her bottom optimistically at dogs 50 times her size. For a Russell, she was placid and amiable. Except when, sitting on her friend's knee, she would dart at any infant that approached with apparently rowdy intentions, and peck him with her nose to teach him better behaviour. But never bite. Though you should never take that for granted with Russells.

Brothers and Sisters, I bid you beware of giving your heart to a dog to tear. We buried Heather wrapped in Black Watch tartan. She is survived by numerous puppies and grandpups, and her tradition of man's best friend. She caused less harm and more pleasure than most humans. And if you ever meet a tiny, pretty urban Jack Russell that smiles at you instead of barking, that will be one of Heather's. Goodnight, old dog. And flights of squirrels swing thee to thy rest.



A world without manners

Gentility may die with my generation,

but thanks to the likes of Digby

Anderson it will not go unmourned

That indefatigable man Digby Anderson, together with his cohorts, has recently put out a substantial volume with the remarkable title *Gentility Recalled*, and the subtitle *Merry Manners and the Making of Social Order*. But perhaps I should say a word or two for those who do not know Digby and his splendid army. He is the head of a group called, most mellifluous, the Social Affairs Unit and the Action Institute For the Study of Religion and Liberty, and the previous book in the series is called *The Loss of Virtue: Moral Confusion and Social Disorder in Britain and America*.

Gentility Recalled has by 11 pairs of hands plus a foreword, and the names and essay titles make very clear what kind of book this is. Here they are:

Digby Anderson. *The Little Things that Matter: Manners and the Maintenance of Social Order*.

Caroline Moore. *Being a Gentleman: Manners, Independence and Integrity*.

Rachel Trickett. *Being a Lady: The Protection of Courtesy*.

George Martin. *Speaking Property: The Need for a Shared Vocabulary*.

Anthony O'Hear. *Knowing Your Place: Manners between the Generations*.

Athena S. Leoussi. *Keeping up Appearances: Clothes as a Public Manner*.

Simon Green. *Playing the Game: Sport and the Learning of Manners*.

John Shelton Reed. *Flirting and Deferring: Southern Manners*.

Robert Grant. *Respecting the Truth: Manners in the Academy*.

Bruce Charlton. *Keeping Your Distance: Manners in the Surgery*.

Michael D. Aschliman. *Running a Respectable Household: Habits of the Home and Social Order*.

H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. *Why Do It? Because That's What We Do: Manners in the Ruins of Community*.

Now a mere glance down that list will show that the authors are all unhappy, and indeed much more than unhappy, about the way the world is going, at least in the areas of decency, honesty, courtesy, law and order, cleanliness, and — I steel myself to say the word, knowing that vast numbers of people do not know what it means — manners.

This book, *Gentility Recalled*, speaks of a time in which gentility not only existed but — and throughout all the layers of society — behaved as though gentility was something to go by. Manifestly, that has disappeared in its entirety, and the authors are not so foolish as to think that that world will

come again, but they want to discover why it died, and they also want to study what it has been replaced by. I also want to know why the world has changed so much and so dreadfully, and I sought the answer from *Gentility Recalled*.

At that point, I was going to start my investigation, but I was stopped not so much in my tracks as in my stately progression, for my eye had caught a tiny "cut" in *The Sunday Telegraph*: a child had called out "My dad couldn't get into his flat; they said they'd smash his head if he tried," and that threat had also been made by children.

Now, *Gentility Recalled* is not made

only of disappointments, it has to face — and I also must face — a world in which the children are criminals.

So I went on reading about these children of 14, who steal, smash cars, smoke drugs openly, and cannot be made

middle-aged — who, after all, should have the experience and wisdom to know better — comport themselves as if they were young; when they dye their hair, have their faces lifted and wear baseball caps back to front; for ever the right way round and shell-suits and trainers; when they buy exercise bicycles, jog in public and go ten-pin bowling and listen to pop on Walkmans; when they go to wine bars and disco with their secretaries; when they talk to the young as if they, too, were young.

Some time ago, when I was among a group of friends, the talk turned to clothing, and then specifically to jeans, their usefulness or clumsiness or cheapness. From a pause in the chatter, a friend murmured: "I don't think we shall ever see Bernard wearing jeans."

The friend was right, but why was she right? The chapter on dress in *Gentility Recalled* is quite startling in its meaninglessness; dress is important — not for showing off, not to be one of the boys. I always don a dinner jacket and stiff shirt for Covent Garden, but that has always been because it gives me extra pleasure through the opera. But Athena Leoussi (her chapter in *Gentility Recalled*) makes it much more than that.

Call it my generation, call it respect, call it duty or whatever you like, but when, only a year or two ago, a lady to whom I was speaking casually said that

that very morning she was travelling in the Underground, and not only did a man fail

to offer her a plainly vacant seat but pushed her roughly out of the way to get to the seat for himself, I found it almost impossible to believe that such a thing could happen.

Yet for some — I am told — gentility is recalled. What is more, we are not talking about something in far-off days; the thing has happened within just a few years. The writers of *Gentility Recalled* all knew that their cause was lost before they started to recall it; indeed, they quite realise that in another few years nobody reading *Gentility Recalled* will understand it.

Take the very first section. The question is: whence comes the demoralisation of society in the modern era? That it has happened no one can possibly deny. Very well; but why did it happen? Yes, the diminution of culpability has done it, but I ask again, where did the diminution come from?

Was it money? Kingsley's marvelous riposte would be very faint today: "Let the rich be as rich as they will, I, and those like me, covet not money but manners." Anthony O'Hear puts it plainly when he says "Acting one's age: better a young fogey than an ageing trend," and goes on to say:

... far more foolish, and far more dangerous to society as a whole, is it when the one — gentility is recalled. What do you think the phrase "it's not cricket" means? For that matter, why do you think Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, says: "Cricket civilises people and creates good gentlemen. I want everyone to play cricket in Zimbabwe. I want ours to be a nation of gentlemen." (If I may stir the pot, let me remind you that Mugabe is savagely hostile to homosexuality.)

Reading this catalogue of *Gentility Recalled*, I find it impossible not to mourn. Again and again, I turn the pages for this wonderfully full story — a tough one that has died. Digby Anderson is as tough as they come, but such a gentle title is enough to bring tears to Digby's eyes, and for that matter mine.

Everything changes; I am not such a fool as to think that gentility was likely to stay for ever, but I rage when I read such

things as Digby's: "When a later generation abandoned manners as 'repressive' or 'bad faith': it gave itself up to selfishness unlimited by thought for others. That sort of selfishness, in fact, makes everyone less free." Gentility, thy name is besmirched.

And Simon Green goes further; his contribution is about cricket, and if you think that cricket is not sufficiently important or

significant, what do you think the

phrase "it's not cricket" means? For that

matter, why do you think Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe,

says: "Cricket civilises people and creates good gentlemen. I want everyone to

play cricket in Zimbabwe. I want ours to be

a nation of gentlemen." (If I may stir the

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generation abandoned manners as 'repressive' or 'bad faith': it gave itself up to

selfishness unlimited by thought for

others. That sort of selfishness, in fact,

makes everyone less free." Gentility, thy

name is besmirched.

Tough deal

ONE WRITER who will not be

offered his services to the Duchess

of York after her £88,000 book

deal with Simon & Schuster, is the

author and biographer Michael

De-la-Noy.

In April, De-la-Noy, whose

1994 biography of the Queen

Mother became a bestseller, wrote

to the Duchess asking to co-operate

with her on a biography. Back

came the high-minded reply: "Her

Royal Highness has stated on nu-

merous occasions that she will

never write her memoirs, or in-

deed collaborate with anyone at

attempting to do so. "Now, of course,

the Duchess no longer operates

under the royal title."

"Obviously in her case money

speaks much louder than good in-

tentions," says De-la-Noy, adding:

"Frankly, whoever does work with a

royal is in for a hell of a job."

P.H.S

Hits and missus

MORE pre-election manoeuvring by the Conservatives, with news that Norma Major is to be assigned her own press officer. At present, Mrs Major is dealt with by a civil servant inside No 10. In the month before and during the general election, however, she will be handled by a party apparatchik.

The likeliest candidate for the job is Eileen Wise, a former press officer for Walt Disney. Currently working as head of news at Conservative Central Office, she is already lining up lunches with senior editors and is widely expected to have her appointment made official later this month. Her assignment to the job should be seen as a pointer to a higher profile for Mrs Major, who is considered one of her husband's greatest election assets.

Vanessa Ford, now head of the Conservative Party chairman's office, was on Norma detail during the 1992 election. "It's not the most onerous task," she says, "and was just one of a thousand other things to do during an election."

Another voice at Central Office, however, believes the time has come for Mrs Major to assume proper First Lady status and a full-



No 10 the other day into St James's Park accompanied by his chief whip, Alastair Goodlad. But far from enjoying a sandwich under the trees, the hero of the classless society was on his way to lunch at Goodlad's club, Brooks's, the sort of Fink-Nottish behaviour that Margaret Thatcher would never have approved of.

On you, babe

SOBER TIMES are approaching, if New York's latest trend crosses the Atlantic. Displaying yet more evidence for the decline of manners described above by Alan Levin, men are now refusing to buy drinks for their dates in one last challenge to the notoriously demanding New York female. "You wanna drink?" they cry in mid-Manhattan. "Have some water."

Archdeacon Paley was the official correspondent for another national newspaper during the Haitian elections of 1987, and even

once made it into the Oxford diocesan directory. Stern efforts by the Italian barman at Exeter College to teach the parrot to swear came to nothing. He counted the Bishop of Oxford among his many friends.

Sadly, after 28 years of his fa-

vourite boiled potatoes and Brazil

nuts, Paley suddenly became ill

and died in the night. He was in-

terred in the back garden.

● Yesterday's Guardian contained an earnest and conspicuous

attack by star columnist Hugo

Young on Douglas Hurd



THE KINDEST CUT

Lower interest rates are just what the economy needs

Kenneth Clarke's decision to cut base rates may have surprised many in the City. But it makes eminent economic sense. Any interest rate cut within a year of a general election is bound to be described as political; it is less justified for that. The Chancellor has boosted his reputation for independence of mind, and boosted the chances of a lasting recovery in the process.

Despite the endemic caution of the Bank of England and many City analysts, there were strong arguments for lower rates. Manufacturing output has been stagnant for months, while stocks are being built up. A combination of weakness in European economies and strong pound is a threat to exports. Consumer demand may be rising, but there is no sign of any inflationary pressures. The prices that producers pay for their raw materials are falling, as are pay settlements. The headline rate of inflation is down to 2.4 per cent, 1.1 points lower than last September. Meanwhile, Britain has the second highest interest rates in the Group of Seven industrialised countries; a level not justified by the country's inflationary performance.

When interest rates were raised a year and a half ago, the argument was that the pound was weak, and there was a danger that higher import prices would feed through to inflation. Now sterling is stronger than it has been for two and a half years, so there is every reason to make a corresponding cut.

Cassandra's at the Bank of England talk ominously of the risks of repeating the mistakes of 1986-87, when an unsustainable boom led to the bust of the early 1990s. But that boom was a far cry from today: house prices were galloping and consumer confidence was unstoppable. The Government let interest rates and sterling fall and cut deeply into taxes. Manufacturing output was

expanding at a rate of about 4 per cent. Now, output is falling. And the Chancellor will consider himself very lucky if the economy meets his growth forecast of 3 per cent this year. Both the OECD and City economists believe 2 per cent to be more likely.

Ministers like to boast that the inflationary cycle has been turned into a virtuous circle. As pay settlements and expectations have fallen, the pressures on costs have lessened, and prices have tended to rise only slowly. If this continues, the economy ought to be able to grow at a faster rate without stoking up inflation. Yesterday five of the Chancellor's six wise people said that growth of 3 per cent or more should be sustainable over the next three to five years without any rise in underlying inflation. If so, then the British economy will truly have been transformed.

But that transformation cannot be tested unless the Chancellor relaxes monetary policy to permit such a rate of growth. This is, tentatively, what he seems to be doing. It would be a terrible waste if the pain of the restructuring in the past five years were not allowed now to bear fruit. Mr Clarke is sensible, therefore, to give the economy a chance to grow in a sustainable way; he can always reverse the policy if inflation does pick up.

This cut in interest rates is the most efficient way of targeting the sectors that most need help. It will have more effect on manufacturing and investment than on consumer spending. For this reason, a rate cut is far more desirable than tax cuts and should, in any other year, make tax cuts less likely. This is, however, the run-up to a general election. If cuts in taxes do materialise, despite the monetary easing and the ballooning deficit, they will most certainly deserve to be dubbed political.

WHEN IN ROME

Rifkind has begun to prise open a closed door

The bargain struck by Malcolm Rifkind in Rome is straightforward as far as it goes — which is not very far. Italy, as current holder of the European Union presidency, is bent on a smooth-running European summit in Florence on June 21. Britain has an equally strong interest in securing before then a deal which, by mapping the route to ending the EU's global ban on British beef exports, will justify to the British public the Government's strategy of concentrating minds by putting a spanner in the EU works.

In Rome, Mr Rifkind won Italy's promise to work flat out for a "framework agreement", in time for it to be put to foreign ministers four days before the summit opens. As a reciprocal gesture, Britain will make the EU association agreement with Slovenia — a cherished achievement of Italian diplomacy — the first exception to its strategy of blocking decisions in EU councils. Mr Rifkind hopes that this is a "turning point", but for two reasons, agreement before Florence is far from guaranteed.

The first is that other governments will find it extremely difficult to explain to their own publics why, if the global ban was justified in March, it is safe to lift it so soon. Had it been based exclusively on scientific data, science would provide the key to unlocking the dilemma. But it was not. Instead, as the EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler virtually admitted, it was primarily a political act, an attempt to forestall a total collapse of consumer confidence in beef.

When governments panic, consumers are hardly likely to be reassured. The predictable result is that the ban has missed its target and has deepened public phobias — above all in Germany, where it is most famously defended. The measure has put hundreds of thousands out of work and is regretted by more EU governments than care to admit it publicly. But they cannot now be seen to be playing political conjuring tricks

MINOR ROYALTIES

Out of the red, into the black

No man but a blockhead may ever have written except for money but no duchess now writes for anything under a million dollars up front. The Duchess of York has just sold the rights to her life story for \$1.3 million. After a spate of books which have eroded respect for the royals, such as *Princess in Love*, "the story so beautiful it had to be told", there is trepidation from traditionalists about a work which could be marketed as *Duchess in First Class*: "the story so bankable it had to be sold".

The Duchess's divorce agreement stipulates no unseemly revelations, but some Royalists fear that the Duchess's desire to see a profit may tempt her into causing a stir. They should calm themselves. The Duchess is merely following in a long line of writers, well bred but in the red, who have dallied with *Grub Street* in order to get themselves out of *Queer Street*.

Sir Walter Scott, the Laird of Abbotsford, wrote to rescue himself from his creditors after unfortunate investments. Another great Tory romancer, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, has woven stories on his path from near-bankruptcy to billions. And he has written a series of bestselling novels. Other great authors, apart from Lord Archer, have kept afloat by keeping their nips wet and scratching away. Anthony Trollope's mother, Frances, kept the family together after the death of the feckless

Sinn Fein vote in perspective

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir. Mr Chris Ryder (letter, June 4) represents Ulster as being well along the road to an Anglo-Irish condominium with each state having its "client communities", as he patronisingly puts it.

A stable future for Ulster can be built on only one foundation: that provided by our country's existing constitution, which commands the overwhelming loyalty of one "client community" and significant support in the other.

It would be ridiculous to increase the prospects of instability quite deliberately by causing deep anxiety amongst such people — the majority of our fellow countrymen in Ulster. That, however, would be the certain result of the course that Mr Ryder recommends. He wants everything to be regarded as conditional, provisional and open for discussion. What Ulster really needs is the certainty that comes from knowing that its constitution is non-negotiable.

As for Sinn Fein, its fortunes rise and fall, like those of all political organisations, violent or pacific. Last week it got 15.4 per cent of the vote. At the 1955 general election it got 23.5 per cent. It is Ulsterism which wins each and every election in Ulster.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE
(Chairman, Trustees of the Friends of the Union),
PO Box 1261, London SW3 4JF.
June 4.

From Mr S. Brookes

Sir. In the interests of perspective, let me point out that 85 per cent of those voting recently in Northern Ireland did not wish to vote for a Sinn Fein candidate.

Yours sincerely,
SAM BROOKES,
2 Manor Park,
Corbridge, Northumberland.
June 4.

From Mr Andrew Walker

Sir. It is a pity we have been conned into using the word ceasefire to describe the IRA's tactics. A ceasefire exists when opposing armies agree to stop fighting each other.

The IRA simply refrained — temporarily — from murdering civilians indiscriminately. This is not the same thing, and in any other context the idea of a mass murderer proclaiming a "ceasefire" would be regarded as ludicrous and contemptible.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW WALKER,
9 Charnwell Court,
Brighton, East Sussex.
June 4.

Royal protesters

From Mr D. J. R. Lewis

Sir. As a Welsh-speaking Welshman, born and bred in Wales, I write to express my deep sense of shame at the student demonstrations against the monarchy on the Queen's recent visit to the University of Wales at Aberystwyth (report, June 1).

What perhaps is no less disturbing are the remarks attributed to the Principal of the university, who is quoted as saying that the students had "a democratic right to protest peacefully" and who then appears to blame the police for the fact that Her Majesty was unable to complete her visit. Six students arrested for public order offences and a seventh held for criminal damage do not accord with one's notion of peaceful protest, any more than the Principal's own comment that "the Palace advisers and police knew that there might be trouble".

Yours faithfully,
D. J. R. LEWIS,
Runabout, 39 West Street,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

From Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Harding

Sir, It is sad to note that only the bad side of events in Aberystwyth last Friday gained any media attention. As the project officer for the new TA Centre in the town and involved in the detailed arrangements for its opening by HM The Queen, I felt like many others, enormously privileged to be graced by her visit. Everyone in her presence was touched by the warmth and joy her smile and laugh brought to us. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

DOUGLAS HARDING,
Deputy Secretary,
Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer
Reserve Association for Wales,
Earl Road, Mold, Clwyd.
June 4.

Sauce for golden goose

From Mr John Smart

Sir, I trust that at the very least Camerl and the other privately owned monopolies created by the Government are barred from the giving of political donations.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SMART,
22 Eatonville Road, SW17.
June 5.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

BBC TV's 'lack of cultural ambition'

From Mr Robert Layton

Sir, Richard Morrison ("What's BBC TV got against culture?", June 1) deserves thanks for articulating disquiet at the BBC's abdication of the high ground in music. The low profile enjoyed by opera and ballet is symptomatic of a general decline in the level of cultural ambition that distinguishes present-day BBC television.

Young musicians may be encouraged to compete to be "Young Musician of the Year", but where are the television openings for them afterwards? Where are the recitals that enriched past programming? I am old enough to recall a relay of Furtwängler conducting the *Eroica* with the Berlin Philharmonic on BBC television in the late 1940s. When, apart from the Proms, did we last have a relay of a great orchestra from the Festival Hall, the Barbican or Birmingham on our screens? When did we last have a recital series?

BBC management is busy counting heads when it should be worrying about what is in them.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LAYTON
(Senior Producer,
BBC Music Division, 1959-90),
112 Goldhurst Terrace, NW6.
June 2.

From Mr Christopher Daws

Sir, William Rees-Mogg quotes hearing that Mercury Asset Management achieved a 1995 return of around 23 per cent on its funds. If this relates to UK equities, it is no better than the pension funds' average for that year of 23.8 per cent. A fund which achieved only the 15 per cent suggested for comparison would have been run by exceptionally bad managers.

He is also at risk of suggesting that senior institutional fund managers could charge a fee of 1.5 per cent p.a. if they set up on their own. In my experience of this field a fee of 0.25 per cent would be nearer the going rate.

No, the name of the game, as in other walks of life, is to position yourself next to the largest possible sum of money and avoid accidents. Those few in the right positions prosper to a degree quite unintelligible to their fellow travellers.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DAWS,
Queens Mary and Westfield College,
Department of Physics,
Mile End Road, E1.
June 4.

cost less than £3,500. Ninety per cent of children admitted to the unit survive and less than 2 per cent of all survivors have any serious long-term effects from their illness.

Clearly the ideal solution would be for more money to be made available to fund these extra facilities but, in measuring value for money, the prospect of caring for 75 critically ill children with the positive outcomes we can expect these days measures very favourably against almost any other area of healthcare spending.

Yours sincerely,

ROB ROSS RUSSELL
(Consultant in Paediatric
Intensive Care),
Paediatric Intensive Care Unit,
Addenbrooke's NHS Trust,
Hills Road, Cambridge.

And why do we have so many close-ups of performers? Are we so stupid that we cannot pick out a trumpet for ourselves? It is like watching a cricket match with the camera solely on the wicket.

I get the impression that the BBC considers that if we, its audience, had any intelligence we would go to the opera or concerts ourselves.

Sincerely,

DOROTHY SHEARMAN,
The Hollies,
Avenue Road, Cranleigh, Surrey.

June 2.

From Mr D. M. Shearman

Sir, When the BBC does put on an opera or concert it always seems to be trying to educate us. Last night we had *Nabucco*, a wonderful musical experience, but in an interpretation that seemed determined to shake us from the traditional.

And why do we have so many close-ups of performers? Are we so stupid that we cannot pick out a trumpet for ourselves? It is like watching a cricket match with the camera solely on the wicket.

I get the impression that the BBC considers that if we, its audience, had any intelligence we would go to the opera or concerts ourselves.

Sincerely,

DOROTHY SHEARMAN,
The Hollies,
Avenue Road, Cranleigh, Surrey.

June 2.

From Mr Albert Bullock

Sir, My refuge is up there on satellite. The German and Italian stations offer all that we miss from British TV. I have on video, amongst many others, *Fierabras* (Schubert) with Thomas Hampson, *The Barber* with Cecilia Bartoli and *La Sonnambula* with June Anderson.

I do not have to pay for any of these many treasures. I do have to pay for BBC offerings.

Yours faithfully,

ALBERT BULLOCK,
Rough Acre,
Milburn Drove,
Moulton, Newmarket, Suffolk.

June 1.

From Mr Gordon Smith

Sir, I was intrigued to come across an opera previously unknown to me, listed in your Vision supplement (June 1): *Donizetti* by Lucia di Lammermoor.

This is a welcome development: it is about time that characters in opera had the right of reply. I look forward to what *Madame Butterfly* has in store for *Puccini*, and still more to *Brünhilde's*, hopefully succinct, low-down on *Wagner*.

One wonders if there are many other deserving characters giving their own side of the story.

Yours etc,

GORDON SMITH,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

June 1.

From Canon A. D. Cesar

Sir, I am becoming increasingly amused and increasingly irritated by the constant use, in newspapers of all kinds, of the pun in headlines.

"Julius seizure" in *The Times* Diary today is just about the last straw.

Yours sincerely,

ANTHONY CÆSAR,
2 Old Kiln,
Yarbridge, Brading,
Isle of Wight.

June 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 6: His Excellency Mr Ahmed Benyamina was received in audience by the Queen this morning to present the Letters of credence of his present and his own Letters of credence as Ambassador from the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Benyamina was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Cole (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

His Excellency Mr Elias Gouraris and Mrs Gouraris were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Hellenic Republic to the Court of St James's.

President Mary Robinson and Mr Nicholas Robinson visited Her Majesty and remained to lunch.

The Prince Edward was present.

The Queen this afternoon attended a Garden Party at Bagshot Park to mark the Bicentenary of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Richard Thorpe), the Chaplain General (the Reverend Dr Victor Dobbins) and the Mayor of Surrey Heath (Councillor Charles Clement).

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of Council and Guards of London Institute, this morning presented the 1996 City and Guilds Prince Philip Medal and Silver and Bronze Medals at Buckingham Palace and later attended a Luncheon at the Connaught Hotel, London W1.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW1.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, this evening attended a Reception held at St James's Palace to welcome the Delegates to the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth's Seventeenth Biennial Conference.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 6: The Princess Royal was the Reviewing Officer this morning at the Founder's Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the Landmark London Hotel, Marylebone Road, London NW1.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this

evening attended a "Sal for Gold" Ball at the London Hilton, London W1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 6: The Prince of Wales, Chairman, the Royal Collection Trust, this morning chaired a Trustees' meeting and gave a Luncheon.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leader Forum, this evening gave a dinner for the international members and supporters of the Forum.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 6: The Duke of Gloucester, Honorary Colonel, The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), today attended the Double Royal Centenary Celebrations at Monmouth Castle and subsequently was present at a Concert in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund at Wyastone Leys, Monmouth.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Association for Spina Bi-fida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH), this morning opened a Conference to mark the 30th Anniversary of ASBAH at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, London SW1.

In the evening Her Royal Highness took the Salute at the Ceremony of Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands of the Household Division on Horse Guards Parade, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 5: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the British Computer Society, this morning switched on the rebuilt Colossus cryptographic computer, Blechley Park, Bletchley, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Commander The Lord Condon).

His Royal Highness, Vislor, later attended a lecture at Cranfield University, Cranfield, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire (Mr Samuel Whitbread).

His Royal Highness, as Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon opened the Technology Centre, Fuji Photo Film (United Kingdom) Limited, St Martin's Business Centre, Bedford, Bedfordshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
June 6: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy and attended by the Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon from Paris.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Mersydeyde.

The Prince of Wales will visit St Mimer School, Rock Road, St Mimer, Wadebridge, Cornwall, at 11.00, and will visit the Royal Cornwall Show at the Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, at 12.05.

The Duke of York will attend an ecumenical service in York Minster at 10.30; as patron, will open the Northern Police Convalescent Home, Castlebar, Acharnade, Fethard, at 1.25, later, as Patron of the Jubilee Sailing Trust, will attend the Keel Laying of the new square rigged ship at Woolston, Hampshire, at 3.15.

The Princess Royal will open the new junior school building at George Heriot's School, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, 9.00, as President of the Burns International Festival, 1996, will open the joint National Library of Scotland and National Museums of Scotland Burns bicentenary exhibition, *Pride and Passion*, at the Royal Museum of Scotland,

Edinburgh, at 10.05; and as Patron of the Cranfield Trust, will attend the jubilee ball, Cranfield University, Bedford, at 7.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester, will name the Swan Hellenic cruise ship *Minerva* at Thame Quay, West India Dock, E14, at 4.35.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Football Association, will attend the Uefa banquet at Guildford at 7.00.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the Centenary Year of St Mary's Convent and Nursing Home, will attend a solemn Mass of thanksgiving in the Convent Chapel, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, at 10.55.

Appointment

Judge Aspin to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

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Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the Centenary Year of St Mary's Convent and Nursing Home, will attend a solemn Mass of thanksgiving in the Convent Chapel, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, at 10.55.

EDINBURGH - On June 6th at The Royal Infirmary Hospital, Edinburgh, at 2.00 pm, Mrs. Stephen Valentine.

HARTLEY - Te Tom and daughter, Stephanie Hartley.

HOWARD - On June 4th at The Royal Infirmary Hospital, Cambridge, to Philip (née Heyman) and Bob, a son, Michael Ernst Graham, son of Anne and Jan Tudence.

INDGE - On 1st June, to Richard and Avril (née Goss), a daughter, Georgia Goss.

LEWIS - On June 1st 1996, to Hilary (née Bowden) and Christopher, a son, George Gulliver Nodd, a brother for Daniel, Rebecca and Angus.

CARLTON-JONES - On May 20th, to Phillipa (née Jones) and Ian, the most beautiful daughter, Laura Marie.

COOK - On 1st May 1996, to Sophie (née Cook) and Peter Henry Christopher, a brother to Madeleine and Helen.

EVANS - On June 4th 1996 at The Portland Hospital, London, to Christopher (née Evans) and Caroline, a beautiful boy, Nicholas Christopher, a brother for Daniel.

EWART - To Julie (née Ladd) and Peter of Kensington, London, Gail (née Evans) and James, a son, Daniel, a brother for Peter, Martin and Thea.

FAIRB - On 2nd June 1996 to Katherine (née Fairb) and John, a son, Henry Samuel Townsend, a half-brother for Daniel and Thea.

FAIRBAGE - On 22nd May 1996, to the late Christopher (née Fairb) and Garry, a beautiful girl, Alice Garry, a sister to Sophie and Edward.

FRIDGBECK - On June 6th 1996, to Zee (née Fridgbeck) and James, a son, José George, a brother for Alice and Garry.

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OBITUARIES

مكتبة الأصل

ROBERT HURST

Robert Hurst, CBE, GM, first director of the experimental reactor project at Dounreay, died on May 16 aged 81. He was born on January 3, 1915.

BOB HURST belonged to the generation of clever young atomic scientists who laid the foundations for Britain's nuclear power programme after the Second World War. The chemistry of plutonium was among the new areas he explored while he was head of a sequence of research groups at Harwell in the late 1940s and 1950s.

But, despite his distinguished progress, culminating in his appointment to the directorship of Dounreay at the early age of 43, this was only the second phase of a career which had earlier established him as a war hero.

Interrupting his PhD studies at Cambridge in 1940, Hurst volunteered to work as a civilian scientist with bomb disposal and mine detection teams during the war. For the next five years he worked as a "hands-on" experimental officer through the Blitz and the terrifying V1 and V2 raids.

His most famous experiment came in June 1944 when Hurst was a leading member of the team led by Major (now Professor) John Hudson, Royal Engineers, which defused the first intact flying bomb found in Britain. The so-called "Doodlebug" contained a new kind of fuse which Hurst and the others were instructed to recover intact "without fail".

The nerve-testing operation on a Sussex farm lasted a week. Hurst and Hudson working in shifts during daylight hours, fighting off waves of dizziness and nausea brought on by toxic fumes from the explosive. Continuing air raids complicated their task, while they knew that the slightest wrong move could have set off the clockwork mechanism of the time fuse inside the bomb. But they made it, and the citation for Hurst's George Medal, which was published in the *London Gazette* three months later, praised their "sustained courage and determination".

Hurst was put into uniform himself at the end of the war and flown to Berlin to help to detect and make safe unexploded bombs dropped by the Allies on the city. This was not, however, his first involvement with Hitler's Germany. As an undergraduate



Robert Hurst with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the opening of Dounreay nuclear power station in 1958

he had helped Jews to escape from the Nazis. Among those they aided was the Austrian-born philosopher Sir Karl Popper, whom Hurst got to know in New Zealand and later in Britain. Among his more treasured possessions was a signed first edition of Popper's book *The Open Society and its Enemies*.

The son of a New Zealand businessman, Robert Hurst was born in Nelson on South Island. He was soon recognised as an outstanding student at school in Nelson and at Canterbury College, where he took an MSc in physical chemistry. From there he won a fellowship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and sailed for England in 1948.

At first he was engaged in studying the chemistry of materials, notably plutonium. But then he moved on to head a project team investigating the potential of various kinds of nuclear reactor. After a brief spell 1957-58, as

1939, working his passage as a radio operator on board ship.

The war broke out during the voyage and the ship was held up in the Caribbean while it was hastily camouflaged in battleship grey. Once in Britain, Hurst completed the first year of his doctorate before volunteering for the work of bomb disposal.

At the end of the war, he returned to Cambridge to finish his thesis, then joined the newly opened Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell in 1948.

At first he was engaged in studying the chemistry of materials, notably plutonium. But then he moved on to head a project team investigating the potential of various kinds of nuclear reactor. After a brief spell 1957-58, as

chief chemist at the Atomic Energy Authority's Industrial Research and Development branch at Risley, Cheshire. Hurst was offered in 1958 the directorship of the new experimental "fast breeder" reactor complex at Dounreay in Caithness. It was a highly prized appointment for one so comparatively young at a time when the fast breeder reactors — which produced more fuel than they burnt — were thought to hold the future for Britain's energy needs.

Five years later, however, Bob Hurst was coaxed by a fellow émigré to leave the nuclear industry for something entirely different. He became director of research at the British Ship Research Association, which had been founded to help Britain to keep pace with increasing competition in shipbuilding.

Computer-aided design was among the technical innovations introduced under Hurst, who brought to the job his considerable experience of managing research and applying its results.

Retiring in 1976, he applied similar qualities to his garden in Poole, Dorset, which he transformed from a wilderness, while turning himself into an expert on bonsai trees. He also researched the genealogy of his family, although he failed to trace back the Hursts beyond the Australian Gold Rush in the last century.

An early heart attack prevented him from becoming an amateur sailor. But he worked for the local sailing club on land and did voluntary work for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. As a student he had been an accomplished cross-country runner and hockey player.

A quiet, well-balanced person, one of his strengths was a prodigious memory which made him a somewhat daunting conversationalist. Recalling almost everything he had heard and read, he seemed to know more about any subject than even those who claimed to be experts.

But he was also a very practical entrepreneur who, while at Harwell, kept his diary on a blackboard, rubbing out and chalking in changes as required.

Robert Hurst, who died after a third heart attack, is survived by his wife Rachael, whose parents had kept the Sussex hotel in which he had stayed for part of the war, and by three sons.

Stephen Jones, curator and art historian, died from a brain tumour on June 1 aged 41. He was born on September 24, 1954.

STEPHEN JONES was a modern aesthete who put his encyclopedic knowledge of the decorative arts to the service of several exciting architectural projects in London. These included the restoration of the wonderfully Baroque Leighton House in Holland Park, and of Spencer House in St James's Place.

Jones carried his refined sense of beauty, like Harold Acton, down to the smallest detail of his private life. He dressed with almost Edwardian formality, favouring watch chains and highly starched double-cuffed shirts. He was a great admirer of Max Beerbohm, and his own sense of humour could be equally wry.

Stephen Richard Jones was born in London, the son of two schoolteachers. His mother taught drama, and he inherited her formidable social skills.

He was educated at St Dunstan's College, and then at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he read English and History of Art. He immersed himself in the study of Victorian architecture and art (not then the fashionable subject it is today), and in particular the Aesthetic period.

Jones's artistic inclinations singled him out from the mass of his contemporaries at Magdalene, though he did find some like-minded souls elsewhere in the university. His ultimate ambition at this point was to become the curator of a national museum.

He left university for stints at the Victoria and Albert, where he worked in the education department on *Apollo*, as Denis Sunton's assistant; and at Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, where he was curator.

which were staged earlier this year at the Royal Academy.

Jones moved to the National Art Collections Fund in 1989, and spent two years editing its publications. He turned the NACF's *Art Quarterly* into a particularly lively read.

Then in 1991 he became Director of Spencer House. One of the grandest mansions in London, with a western facade overlooking Green Park, this had been the London home for the Spencer family from the 18th century until 1926. It had spent the subsequent sixty years used, more mundanely, as office accommodation for a legion of clerks and secretaries. In 1985 the J. Rothschild group of companies took the lease, and paid for its restoration.

This was largely completed when Jones joined Spencer House, the state rooms restored to their former glittering splendour. It was his task, in particular, to launch the banqueting facilities — unenviably, in the teeth of a recession. Against the odds, Jones made a success of this.

Jones did a good deal of behind the scenes work for the Victorian Society, the Royal Oak Foundation, which raises funds for the National Trust; and the Walpole Committee. He was at the height of his powers, and friends were as nonplussed as he was when he complained of feeling unwell. Sadly, a brain tumour was diagnosed, and Jones died several weeks afterwards.

Jones once described his own dream home as a Georgian rectory, with stables, in Gloucestershire. He actually lived in an early Victorian house in Camberwell, decorated with the occasional small masterpiece which his sharp eye had spotted at the back of an antique shop. Magazine editors approached him to photograph it, but he always refused. He lived there with his partner David Oosterman, who survives him.

STEPHEN JONES



Stephen Jones

SIR JACK LAYDEN

Sir Jack Layden, former leader of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, died on May 23 aged 70. He was born on January 16, 1926.

A STRAIGHT-speaking miner from Yorkshire, Sir Jack Layden was one of the last great working-class municipal leaders of the postwar era. He represented the long tradition of socialism in the Labour-dominated councils of northern England. In the course of a 40-year career, which spanned both trade union and constituency politics, he was proud to have met every British Prime Minister since Churchill.

As leader of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Layden pioneered the right of tenants to buy their council houses long before the Tories adopted the idea. He was always saddened that the Labour Party had languished in Opposition for so many years. It was for this reason, per-

haps, that in later years this archetypally gritty Yorkshireman became an enthusiastic advocate of Tony Blair and new Labour.

John Layden was born in Malby, South Yorkshire, and always remained rooted in its working-class community. In 1940, at the age of just 14, he was employed as a faceworker in the Malby colliery. It was a tough training, of which he took a proud but never romantic view. Although he fought bitterly against pit closures, he recognised at the same time the value of the education which his work in the pits had denied him. In the 1950s he attended Sheffield University as a day-release student to catch up on the learning he had missed and he encouraged his own children to go on to tertiary education.

Politically alert from an early age, Layden became a member of the Labour Party in 1944. But it was only in 1953 that he began to take a more active involvement in politics. He was elected a member of the urban district council of Malby. He acted as its chairman from 1959 to 1960, and again from 1970 to 1971. Layden was also the local leader of the National Union of Mineworkers and sat on its Yorkshire executive.

In 1974 he was elected as the leader of the newly created Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Ten years later, in 1984, he beat off a strong left-wing challenge to become the new chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. His own slightly parochial background did not prevent him from becoming an effective leader of a united local authority campaign.

Reacting strongly against domination by a centralised Whitehall command, he believed instead that the relationship between central and local government should be one of creative partnership. He made his arguments for local democracy direct to Downing Street, managing, it is said, to silence even Margaret Thatcher with a combination of native directness and miner's wit.

Layden was made a JP of Rotherham Borough in 1965. He was also chairman of the South Yorkshire Police Authority and supported its Chief Constable strongly at the time of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster. He was knighted in 1988 and in that same year was also made a freeman of the City of London.

But it was Rotherham which remained Layden's first love. Throughout his life he was an ardent supporter of his local second division football club, Rotherham United.

Jack Layden died while on a family holiday in Blackpool, just three weeks after retirement. He is survived by his wife Brenda, whom he married in 1949, and by their two sons.

Pilar Lorenza Garcia, Spanish soprano, died in Berlin on June 2 aged 68. She was born in Zaragoza on January 16, 1928.

YEARS before she adopted the portmanteau-name "Lorenzgar", composed from the two surnames with which she was born, Pilar Lorenza Garcia and her mother visited a high-class dressmaker in their native Zaragoza. The lady, struck by the voice of the 13-year-old who warbled happily as she was being measured, took the mother to one side and impressed upon her firmly the rareness of the girl's talent.

The dressmaker had her way, and within months Pilar was studying in Madrid with Angeles Oste. The tutelage, next of Carl Ebert and Martha Klust in Berlin would put this resourceful girl from Aragon on the path to international celebrity.

The Germanic flavour of the name Lorenzgar was quite appropriate, even in a Spanish soprano, as Pilar was a "house artist" of Deutsche Oper in Berlin from 1959 — when an inspired gamble by the company, she was first signed up — until her retirement 32 years later. She married a Berliner and, throughout her life, professed a passion for the city and its people. "Without Berlin I could not sing," she said.

Lorenzgar made her name first, however, in a most un-Germanic genre — that of *zarzuela*, the Spanish light opera which demands from its singers voices that soar and swoop, not always with subtlety. She captured national fame in 1951, at Madrid's Teatro Alhambra, by her performance in Jacinto Guerrero's *El canastillo de fresas* (The Little Basket of Strawberries). Critics heaped encomiums on her "clear diction" and on "the freshness of her enchanting

PILAR LORENGAR



timbre", characteristics which never ceased to mark her art. Lorenzgar's opera debut was to come four years later, as Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*, in Aix-en-Provence. Her looks did not please *Opera* magazine, which called her "the most unboylike page imaginable, discarding the usual periwig in favour of a feminine hairstyle which even the text of *Non più andrai* could hardly justify". But her vocal perfection quickly won her admirers, few of whom ever realised that her voice was the product of the most fanatical practice.

Shortly after Aix, she went to Glyndebourne in 1957, where she was a winsome Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. Her vivacity suited Mozart, and Lorenzgar made her New York debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1966 as Elvira in *Don Giovanni*. So bewitched was the New York company with her that she returned to sing for the next 12 seasons.

But there was more to Lorenzgar than Mozart: with years, her voice acquired the texture for Verdi, Wagner and Janáček. In the title role of *Berlin*, in 1976, in an inspired gamble by the latter, *Opera* was kinder to her than it had been when she had once played Cherubino, praising the "perfection of her tonal beauty and resonance in the upper register".

In 1991 Lorenzgar was awarded Spain's most coveted prize, the Príncipe de Asturias, along with Teresa Berganza, Victoria de los Angeles, Montserrat Caballé, Alfredo Kraus, José Carreras and Plácido Domingo. Speaking to the Spanish press the day after Lorenzgar died, after a long illness, the latter described her graciously as "una mujer simpática" — a most agreeable woman. No one who knew her would disagree.

She is survived by her husband.

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GIFTS

A 50TH ANNIVERSARY GIFT

OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

1940-1990

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NEWS

Ulster jeopardises Tory majority

John Major's Commons majority of one was under threat last night when Terry Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, threatened to resign the party whip in protest at the Government's handling of the Northern Ireland peace process.

Mr Dicks, a private parliamentary secretary to two Transport Ministers, raised the prospect of the Government losing its majority when he attacked Senator George Mitchell's role in next week's all-party talks.

Pages 1, 21

BBC crew was all at sea on an iceberg

A BBC television crew of three trying to film polar bears was rescued from an Arctic iceberg after it broke away from Canada's Northwest Territories and started to drift out to sea. They had waited 20 hours for the plane to reach them from the settlement of Resolute on the Barrow Straits.

Page 1

Blair schools call

Tony Blair is to call for sweeping reforms within the comprehensive education system to ensure that pupils of similar ability are taught together. His speech risks angering the Left.

Page 2

Dunblane warning

A detective gave warning five years ago that Thomas Hamilton was an unstable, deceitful and scheming man who should not have a gun licence, the Dunblane inquiry was told.

Page 3

Canova discoverer

The man who discovered a £1 million Canova sculpture in a West Country garden is an antiquities dealer in Hampshire who started working life as a Bermondsey market-trader.

Page 14

Charities fall out

A charity that supports the victims of crime, with Home Office backing, criticised the Victims of Crime Trust, a rival charity run by a policeman.

Page 6

Growth Industry

Britain's booming farm shops are turning themselves into leisure sites for the whole family to rival theme parks and cinemas rather than supermarkets.

Page 16

Log wrecked boat

The boat of the lone oarsman Peter Bird was probably wrecked by a log as he battled 30ft Pacific waves, giving him no time to put on a survival suit.

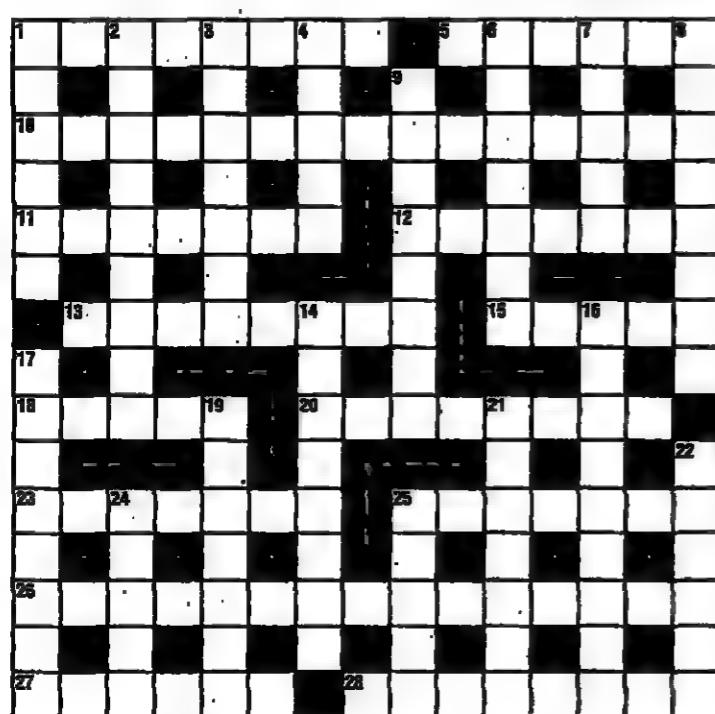
Page 10

Portillo apologises for rowdy party

Michael Portillo apologised for holding a raucous party in his grace-and-favour flat in Admiralty House and disturbing people watching the Household Cavalry beating retreat on Horseguards Parade. They complained of shouting and laughter from open windows but partygoers said the event had been extremely civilised and sober.

Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,188



ACROSS

- Attempt to reform some liar? (8).
- Showing emphatic leanings to the right (6).
- Possible cause of shocking awakening? (8,7).
- Facility opposing players enter in friendship (7).
- Pleasure occupying a month, time quickly gone (7).
- Animal's a long time in poor conditions on board (8).
- Tree about to get repeated application of oxygen (5).
- Word of address to mother, beastly mother? (5).
- Figure of speech encountered previously in talk (8).
- Arbiter has to come down on repeated phrase (7).
- Elderly person taken in by senior fighting man (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,187

LOWER FULLHOUSE
LA E O O A T T
GLIMBDOWN BATCH
X Y O D G I E I
ERIEBUS HISTORIC
R I N O S A
BILDEDEVILS SNIP
A P S E A C C I
GOAT FRENCHBEAN
N T T D A C
MIDNIGHT SMIRCH
O D P E S P H B
SHORT TO THE BEFORE
H M O O I R N C
SANDPIPER SLEEK

26 Description of healthy spread in old college, not totally full? (15).

27 Advert about English jester (6).

28 Worthily translated the Bible (4,4).

DOWN

1 Crazy about Irish woman, a frenzied type (6).

2 Given seat back, having had to stand (2,7).

3 Type of window used in historical Attic edifice (7).

4 Very reflective and coy, hiding one name (5).

6 Automatic response to limit service and frequency of buses etc? (7).

7 Compare legal right to imprison monarch (5).

8 Reason given for award in action, possibly (8).

9 With an honour, pass no trump? It's biddable (8).

14 Give warning Danish cooking will take only a second (8).

16 Church roster organised to include one singer (9).

17 One tying up mischievous maker? That could be wrong (8).

19 Give me a certain amount (7).

21 Horse for man in quarry (7).

22 It's required after one's about to get indication of debt? (6).

24 River to South-East? Wrong (5).

25 Begin a fight (3,2).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHER-CALL

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North & South Wales: 709

Wales: 710

Central Scotland: 711

W E England: 712

W N England: 713

W E Midlands: 714

W S England: 715

W N Scotland: 716

W Central Scotland: 717

W E Highlands: 718

W N Highlands: 719

W Orkney & Shetland: 720

Central Scotland: 721

W E England: 722

W N England: 723

W S England: 724

W N Scotland: 725

W Central Scotland: 726

W E Highlands: 727

W N Highlands: 728

W Orkney & Shetland: 729

W N Highlands: 730

W S England: 731

W N England: 732

W E Midlands: 733

W S England: 734

W N England: 735

W E Highlands: 736

W N Highlands: 737

W Orkney & Shetland: 738

W N Highlands: 739

W S England: 740

W N England: 741

W E Highlands: 742

W N Highlands: 743

W Orkney & Shetland: 744

W N Highlands: 745

W S England: 746

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W Orkney & Shetland: 750

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W Orkney & Shetland: 774

W N Highlands: 775

W S England: 776

W N England: 777

W E Highlands: 778

W N Highlands: 779

W Orkney & Shetland: 780

W N Highlands: 781

W S England: 782

W N England: 783

W E Highlands: 784

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When a Rolling Stone gathers up his jazz friends



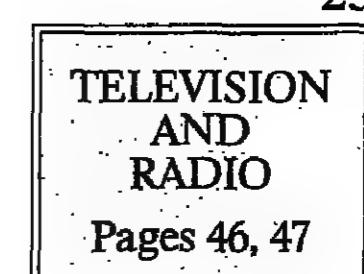
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JUNE 7 1996



Michael Hepher, right, BT's former managing director who remains on the payroll but has no role, with Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman

Clarke defies market consensus to cut rate

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke's decision to cut rates by a quarter point to 5.75 per cent, completely against the market consensus and probably the views of the Bank of England, shows that the Chancellor is determined to grasp the opportunity of low inflation and allow the economy to grow as fast as he deems safe.

Mr Clarke has made it clear that he believes structural reforms to the economy undertaken since 1979 have raised the amount of growth and job creation that is possible without igniting inflation.

This instinct was given clear support in a report published yesterday by the Treasury's independent panel of economic forecasters, which Mr Clarke saw on Tuesday, the day before he met Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to discuss rates.

Five out of six of the Chancellor's advisers now believe that real gross domestic product may be able to grow by 3 per cent or higher over the next three to five years without any rise in the underlying inflation rate.

It has long been assumed that Britain's sustainable growth rate is around 2.25 per

cent or lower and the idea that it has been raised because of supply side reforms to the economy is contentious. The panel of forecasters says that its conclusions are not an invitation to Chancellors present and future to regard 3 per cent or above as a growth target and emphasises that the current system of having an inflation target must remain the "binding constraint on the economy as the economy moves forward".

Although this report is independent and not the Treasury's view, it appears to chime in with Mr Clarke's

attitude that, given few signs of inflationary pressures, he would like interest rates to be as low as possible to achieve the maximum rate of sustainable growth.

Such an approach received some support in the City yesterday. Peter Warburton of Robert Fleming applauded Mr Clarke's decision to break out of the intellectual entrapment of Chancellors by their advisers and said: "It is right and proper that he should be far more concerned by the dismal performance of the industrial economy by

the early and ephemeral indications of a retail pick-up."

The City has been deeply divided in its analysis of the economy because of a widening chasm between manufacturing, which is on the brink of recession, and the consumer sectors of the economy, which appear to be getting healthier.

Many City economists condemned yesterday's move as politically motivated and putting the Government's inflation target at risk.

However, the financial markets took the news in their stride, suggesting that a quar-

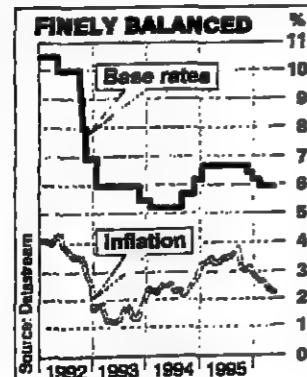
ter-point move is too small to make much difference to economic projections.

Sterling, whose recent strength was one factor the Chancellor used to justify his decision, lost around one per cent against the mark to close at DM2.3580. However, government bonds closed around half a point up, cheered by an unexpected rate cut by the Bank of France yesterday, and shares also closed marginally higher. The FT-SE 100 index closed 6.9 points up at 3,760.3.

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Pennington, page 27

Fresh hope for housing market



THE move by some of the UK's biggest lenders to cut their rates following the 0.25 per cent cut in base rates could be the final trigger for genuine recovery in the housing market (write Caroline Merrell and Sarah Jones).

Halifax Building Society was the first to cut its rates, bringing its standard variable rate down from 7.25 per cent to 6.99 per cent.

However, savers now face a further decline in rates already at a 50-year low. Margaret

Schwarz, Abbey National's chief economist, said: "Competition is as fierce in the savings market as in mortgages. If one provider cuts rates, others have to follow."

The mortgage rate cut means that the average £50,000 mortgage will be about £10 a month cheaper. This is the fifth cut inside a year. A year ago, rates stood at 8.35 per cent.

Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, said: "This latest cut represents a further

shot in the arm for the housing market and consumer confidence in general."

New Halifax borrowers will feel the benefit straightaway. One million of the two million existing borrowers with variable rate mortgages will see their rates cut in August, while those on annual review will have their rates adjusted early in 1997.

Abbey National reduced its tiered variable rate by 0.25 per cent, and Bradford & Bingley cut its rate to 6.74 per cent.

BT defended its payments yesterday, saying it had hired Mr Hepher on the basis that he would be paid until August 1997 whatever happened. His decision to leave had not broken the terms of his contract, so BT was obliged to continue paying him. A spokesman said: "I'm sure the shareholders will understand that Michael Hepher had done a tremendous job at a very difficult time for BT."

He added: "It happens that BT is extremely open and

to the consumer the high price it pays for its supplies."

At present the spot price for gas is around 12.5p a therm

whereas British Gas is committed to paying double that under take-or-pay contracts, and under obligations to its own gas fields. But the regulator said such a curb would be seen as arbitrary and would impact on shareholders.

If she had imposed restrictions on the pass-through of costs customers would have been poised for benefits of up to £76 next year. But Ms Spottiswoode said competition would force British Gas to renegotiate its take-or-pay contracts and bring down prices further.

Already it has lost more than 30,000 customers in the South West where competition in domestic supply has begun and rivals are offering price cuts of up to 23 per cent.

British Gas said that yesterday's proposals represented a further squeeze on profits and shareholders but were not of the same magnitude as those imposed on TransCo.

Philip Rogerson, deputy chairman, said: "I don't know where the savings are going to come from. It is a tough requirement."

In spite of his comments, it is widely expected that the company will largely accept the call for domestic tariffs to be set at the rate of inflation minus 5 percentage points. At present, household prices are governed by RPI.

The City considered the review more lenient than feared after the regulator left alone the mechanism by which British Gas can pass on

the ropes, page 29

Barings resembled 'Mad Hatter's tea party'

BY ROBERT MILLER

ONE of the most senior executives in charge of Barings at the time of the £830 million crash will admit next week that the bank was too dazzled by the fraudulent profits and potentially huge bonuses generated by Nick Leeson to probe his trading activities any further.

Peter Norris, the former chief executive officer who last month was banned from working as a manager in the City for three years, will also tell the BBC's *Inside Story* how the final days before the merchant bank's crash were like the Mad Hatter's tea party".

The former Barings director contin-

ued: "It seems completely bizarre that a group of rational, intelligent, experienced and confident people were dealing with a matter that was totally at variance with reality... Critical faculties were less enjoyed than they might have been — to put it at its least — because there were profits."

Leeson, who was interviewed for the programme before he left his German prison cell for a 6½-year term in Singapore, variously described the Barings management as "bumbling fools" and "idiots". Mr Norris in turn described Leeson's ability to manipulate people. He said: "He's like a virus that gets

into the workings of something that works, and perverses it utterly. He's an agent of destruction."

Of the audit in the Singapore office in the summer of 1994, Leeson said he "expected everything to be found". But, he said: "They came in and they didn't take any records. So I can't be happier. They didn't test one record or one report. I mean that's not an audit."

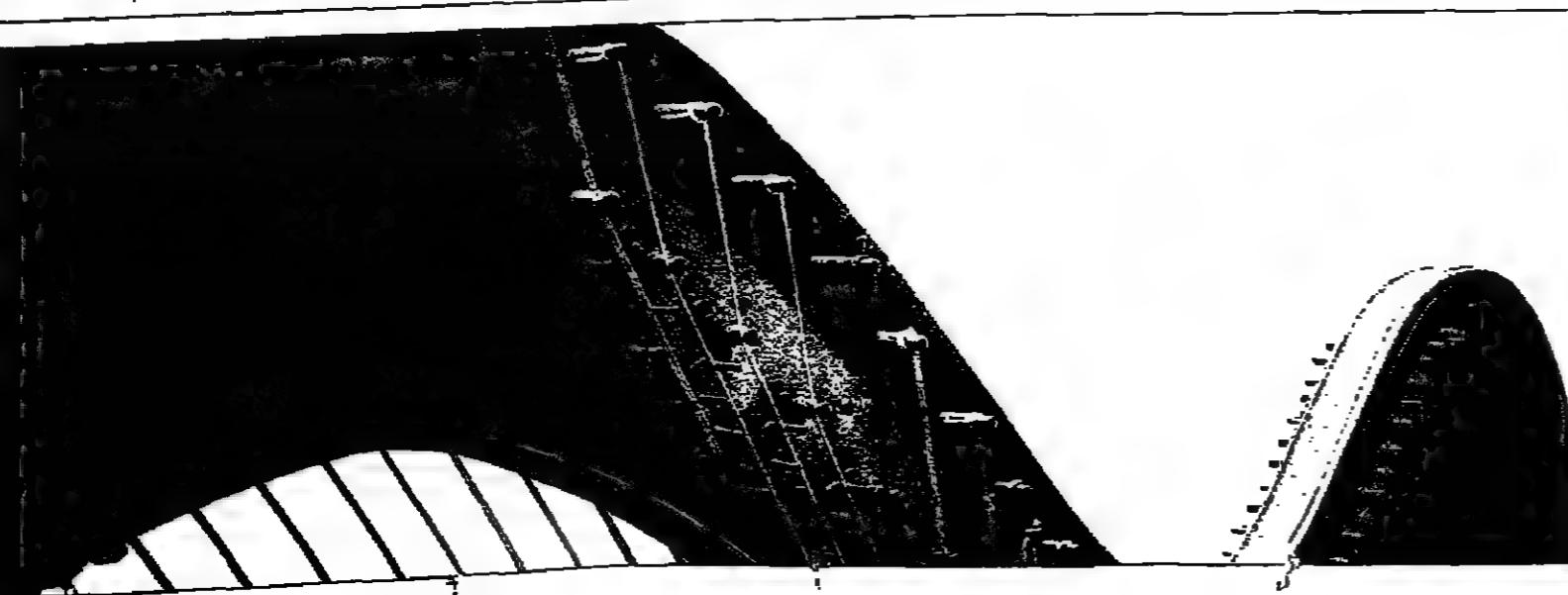
The Norris admission that management controls were non-existent is likely to increase calls on Barings and ING, its Dutch owners, to pay compensation to bond and preference shareholders who lost £150 million in the crash.



Norris: admission

EXHILARATION

CLASSIC fm 100-102



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Irish sugar group sees sweet rise in profits

FROM EILEEN McCABE
IN DUBLIN

GREENCORE, the Irish sugar, milling and malting group, recorded a 16 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £12.5 million in the six months to March 31.

Turnover was up 9 per cent to £230 million while operating profits also increased 9 per cent, to £24 million. Earnings per share jumped 11 per cent to 11.8p.

The company's sugar sector put in a strong performance with a sales increase of 17 per cent. However, operating profits increased by only 11 per cent, to £12.8 million, because of the lower margins earned by the sale of 16,000 tonnes of over-quota sugar.

Operating profits in the agribusiness sector increased by 7 per cent, to £6.3 million, on sales of £86.2 million. The company does not expect the BSE controversy to have a significant impact on profits but if farm incomes are affected, "there could be some indirect and modest exposure".

In the food sector, exports by the Erin and Swissco consumer product companies were hit by the strength of the Irish pound against sterling but the domestic markets saw some improvement. Overall, operating profits in the sector were up 7 per cent, to £4.9 million, on sales of £175 million.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.08	1.98	
Austria Sch	17.65	16.18	
Belgium Fr	1.24	1.21	
Canada \$	2.22	2.08	
Cyprus Cyp	0.762	0.707	
Denmark Kr	9.71	8.91	
Finland Fr	7.94	7.74	
France Fr	5.43	5.75	
Germany Dm	2.98	2.91	
Greece Dr	3.69	3.64	
Hong Kong \$	1.51	1.48	
Ireland P	1.23	1.20	
Iceland Skr	5.48	4.90	
Italy Lira	2502	2347	
Japan Yen	125.44	125.10	
Malta	0.988	0.948	
Netherlands Gld	2.801	2.571	
New Zealand \$	2.46	2.33	
Norway Kr	12.85	12.49	
Portugal Esc	285.50	277.00	
S Africa Rd	7.32	6.92	
Spain Pts	207.60	194.50	
Sweden Kr	11.15	11.00	
Switzerland Fr	2.07	1.99	
Turkey Lira	18441.4	11641.4	
USA \$	1.844	1.814	

Rates for small transfers. Bank fees extra. Subject to Sainsbury's PLC. Different rates apply to travelagent cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



David Dilger, right, the chief executive of Greencore, with Kevin O'Sullivan, the financial director, at a supermarket in Dublin this week

Boots restates commitment to troubled Do It All chain

BY CLARE STEWART

SPECULATION over the future of Do It All, the troubled DIY retailer, continues to grow, as a difference of opinion yesterday emerged between its joint owners, W H Smith and Boots.

With the City expecting Smith's soon to announce plans to quit DIY retailing as part of its restructuring, Lord Blyth, Boots's chief executive,

yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to Do It All.

"We believe the best way of creating value in the business is to continue with our strategy," he said, while announcing Boots's results for 1995.

Boots's share of losses from Do It All last year were £10.1 million, an increase of £3.8 million on the previous year.

In the year to March 31, Boots saw group profits fall 6 per cent to £494 million before

tax and exceptional items.

Group turnover last year rose by 5.8 per cent to £4.1 billion.

The lower pre-tax figure reflects increased investment in its healthcare business, losses from Do It All and A G Stanley, the home decorating chain, and the sale of Boots Pharmaceuticals, which contributed £96.4 million of operating profit in the previous year.

Boots is lifting the total dividend to 18.5p a share, an

increase of 8.8 per cent, which its says reflects group performance and its strong cash position. The final dividend is 12.8p a share. The shares rose 2p to 608p yesterday.

At the year end, Boots held cash of £526 million. The company has subsequently raised a further £62.5 million with the sale of Childrens World and received the outstanding £73 million from the sale of Boots Pharmaceuticals.

Analysts expect Boots to spend some of its cash on a share buyback. "If we cannot find appropriate investments then we will return cash to shareholders, but we will choose the time," said Lord Blyth.

Boots the Chemists saw sales rise by 5.6 per cent to £3.1 billion, while operating profits jumped 10 per cent to £385 million, helped by "a very good summer and excellent Christmas", said Lord Blyth.

Boots Healthcare lifted total sales 12.3 per cent to £207 million helped by the strong performance of brands such as Nurofen and Strepsils, though after heavy investment in new products the division showed losses of £8.2 million.

Boots Opticians increased profit to £10.9 million before exceptions and Halfords's profits rose 7.8 per cent to £22.1 million, while losses at A G Stanley deepened to £12.2 million.

Childrens World, sold to Storehouse in February, showed a £1.4 million loss. Boots Properties, the second-most profitable business after Boots the Chemists, lifted operating profits 3.1 per cent to £68.2m.

Pennington, page 27

Retail sales trend disappoints

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH STREET spending rose in May for the eighth month running, but continues to be below retailers' expectations and business for the time of year is regarded as only just above average, according to the latest distributive trades survey by the Confederation of British Industry.

All sectors surveyed, apart from footwear and leather, saw sales rise, compared with a year ago. However, six out of 12 retail sectors examined re-

ported a slowdown in annual retail sales growth since April.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's survey panel, said: "The continued expansion in retail trade for May is welcome as it points to the emergence of a 'feel-better' mood among consumers, although the underlying three-monthly growth trend now seems to be levelling off."

The CBI noted that retailers were still confident that volume growth would pick up

further in June, and that, if these hopes were fulfilled, this would leave business above average for the time of year.

Geoffrey Dicks, of NatWest Markets, said sales were somewhat disappointing, but that expectations of sales remain at their highest post-recession levels and that the outlook is for increased investment and employment. Mr Dicks pointed to the survey's reading for reported and expected prices and noted that they remain at

about their highest levels for three years. "This does not sit well with the Chancellor's assertion that core inflation is heading down," he said.

The CBI said that retailers reported that stocks were more than adequate in relation to expected demand, although a run-down in stockpiles is expected in June. However, it also noted that hopes of running down stock levels had been unfulfilled since October last year.

TT seeks Johnston stake

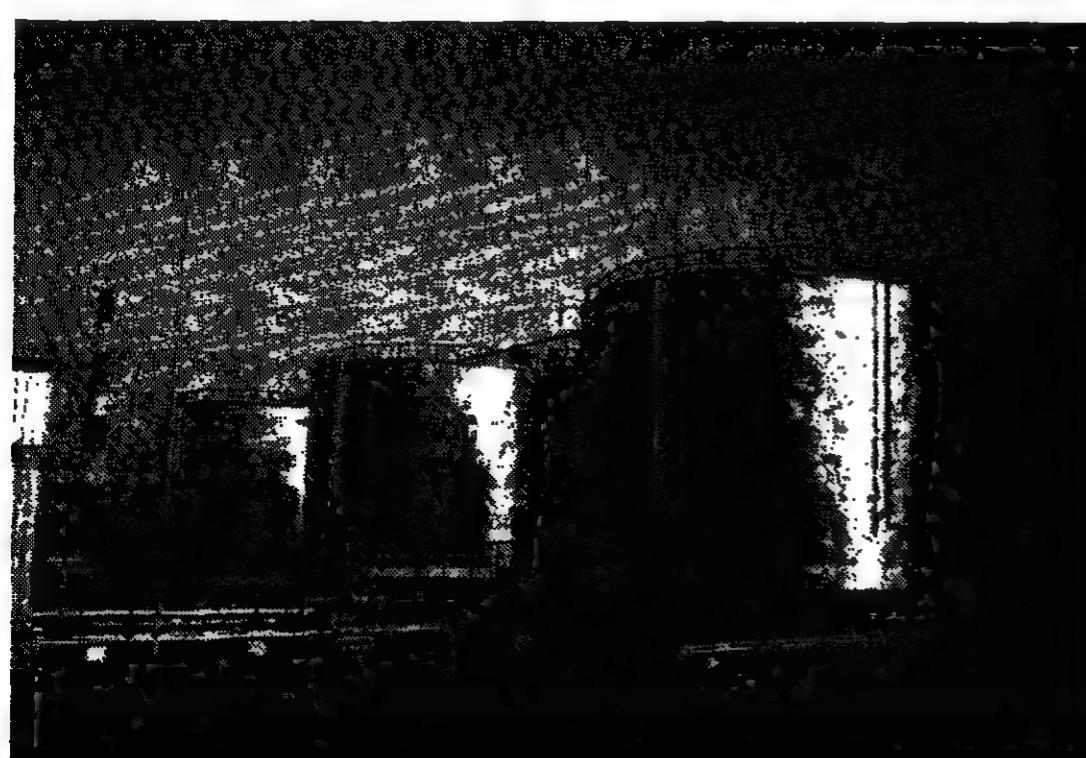
TT GROUP, the acquisitive mini-conglomerate, is to make a £15 million tender offer for a 27.46 per cent stake in Johnston Group, the family-controlled engineering company, offering 500p per Johnston share. Johnston shares yesterday rose 105p, to 475p. John Newman, TT's chairman, said that it was acquiring the stake as "a strategic investment". TT was not planning to make an offer for Johnston but might reconsider its position after a year or in the event of a bid by a third party.

De Lorean case attacked

THE Government yesterday came under pressure from Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Conservative Foreign Secretary, to drop its US damages claim against Arthur Andersen, the accountant, in the De Lorean cars case. He called in the Lords for "a fresh mind to be brought to bear on this litigious expense". The US courts recently ruled that the UK cannot use racketeering laws to claim up to an estimated \$1 billion damages. The ruling allows a narrower action.

EMEROL Limited

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF TURKMENISTAN



Our Company
Emerol Limited, an oil and gas construction company with its head quarters in Dublin, has been active in the republic of Turkmenistan for four years. The company has developed a relationship of mutual understanding and trust with senior Government officials during this time, which has enabled the successful completion of a series of major infrastructure projects.

Our Successes
Our involvement in Turkmenistan has included the completion of a number of construction projects to improve the efficiency of the oil and gas base of the country. Recently, Emerol Limited completed the construction and commissioning of a US \$3.5m oil and water separation facility, part of which is shown above, at the Turkmenbashi Oil Refinery, in the West of the country, sharing profits from the venture in the ratio 49:51 with the state owned refinery.

Using English technology the plant will treat polluted waste oil emulsion, the result of forty years of refining on the site, producing raw materials suitable for further refining and water of sufficient purity to be released into the environment without harmful side effects.

Our Commitment
As a company we have a commitment to reducing the environmental impact of the oil and gas industry. This is no small task given the years of neglect of environmental matters in the past time. We have found that significant improvements can be made in a relatively short time frame by

working with like-minded government of Turkmenistan who treat the environment priority.

President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan has on many occasions expressed his concern that the development of his country be accompanied by improvements of environment in the Caspian Sea and surrounding regions. By co-operating with the Government of Turkmenistan on environmental and other investment projects we hope to come to respect and understand the needs of the Government and hope that we will continue to work together in the future.

Recently, group president Mr. Vladimir Mirkiny, was quoted as saying, "We value our relationship with the Government of Turkmenistan and hope to announce new important investment projects shortly. Our optimism stems from the stable and peaceful policies of the President of Republic and the high level of protection afford to foreign investors by the laws of the country."

Our Offer
We are proud of our successes in Turkmenistan, especially the relationships we have developed with the Government. If you would like to know more of our experiences, or discuss possible future investment opportunities, in what is potentially one of the most dynamic regions of Asia, please contact our London representatives at the following address:

Turkmenistan Projects
Emerol Limited
160 Kingston Road
London SW2 8DN

Tel: 0181 545 9816
Fax: 0181 545 9866

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on Thursday 6th June, 1996 and until further notice, Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate is

5.75% per annum

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

HILL SAMUEL BANK

Hill Samuel Bank Limited - 100 Wood Street - London EC2P 2AJ
A member of the Lloyds TSB Group

Coutts & Co Base Rate.

With effect from Thursday 6th June 1996, Coutts & Co have decreased their Base Rate from

6.00% p.a. to 5.75% p.a.

Coutts & Co
440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

informative:

First Direct Base Rate

With effect from 6 June 1996, First Direct Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75%

HomeOwner Reserve

With effect from 6 June 1996, the HomeOwner Reserve rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 12.00% p.a. (APR 12.4%)

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc Member HSBC Group

MIDLAND

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATE

With effect from 6th June 1996

our Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75% p.a.

Midland Bank plc

The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group



□ Chancellor ignores inflation pessimists □ Too-generous package for Hepher □ Boots and WH Smith head for divorce

JUST three weeks ago the Bank of England delivered a carefully worded warning to the Chancellor. When economic signals are ambiguous, it is easy to make policy misjudgments. It is therefore absolutely crucial that interest rate policy looks forward. Sure enough, yesterday's rate cut shows that Ken Clarke is looking forward... forward to the election.

Of course the move was political. What rate cut has not been? One City economist usefully pointed out yesterday that every Chancellor since the war has cut base rates within seven months of a general election. Caught out yet again by a Chancellor at ease with himself, the City's inflation alarmists were out in force, condemning Mr Clarke for putting his party's electoral prospects before the good of the economy.

To the extent that grossly wrong economic policy decisions have been made in the past for political reasons with dire consequences, such concerns are justified. But in truth this quarter-point cut in rates is too small to make any difference to the path of the economy. It will not help manufacturing industry to crawl out from under the weight of its stock piles, nor trigger an

explosion in inflation, nor, one suspects, gain the Government a single extra seat at the election.

But the move says a lot about this Chancellor. It is evidence, if any were needed, of his confidence. He erred towards monetary ease last year against the explicit advice of the Bank and the bevy of inflation alarmists in the City — and he was vindicated by events. If anyone had any illusions left that the Bank of England gained extra influence under the new monetary framework, they must surely now have vanished. If anything, the humiliation of giving advice in public and being overruled (rather than in private and being overruled as before) must leave the Bank weaker.

But it also marks the end of the inflation obsession that has dominated British policy for so long. Yesterday's move shows that the Chancellor believes that we are now in a genuinely low inflation environment and that structural reforms mean that the economy can grow more quickly.

with lower unemployment, without igniting inflation.

It is a telling coincidence that this rate cut coincided with a special report from the Chancellor's panel of economic advisers saying that the economy could grow by 3 per cent or more for the next three to five years without the danger of higher inflation. The Chancellor was not so much being political yesterday as showing that he is prepared to test the boundaries of his party's success in transforming the economy.

BT's unacceptable pay extension

□ THE bickering in the City over predatory poaching of key staff by one investment bank from another is bitter enough. Imagine the rancour if the loser, on seeing its heavy hitters lured across the road for huge piles of cash, was required to continue paying them *in absentia*.

BT, though, is of a more

PENNINGTON



generous nature. Michael Hepher, former managing director, has done an "Ian Martin". He has negotiated to stay on the payroll at his previous employer while firmly entrenched behind his new desk at the merchant bank Charterhouse.

Mr Martin, students of business fat-cattery will remember, is the former deputy chairman of Grand Metropolitan who managed the extraordinary feat of a £56,000 pay-off to compensate him for loss of office when he already had two other jobs to go to. He, like Mr Hepher, had been passed over for the top job. He went elsewhere, with little diffi-

culty and of his own free will.

It is worth quoting from this column on Mr Martin's windfall. "Payments for loss of office," we wrote, "are known as compensation payments, oddly enough, because they are designed to compensate the recipients for the heart-breaking experience of finding themselves out on the street." Neither Mr Martin nor Mr Hepher deserve compensation because neither lost their job. They merely failed to get a better one.

GrandMet is a quasi-American business with a concomitant history of generous pay packages. BT, by contrast, is a public utility whose directors are all too aware of the fuss over huge salaries in such businesses. BT says it is merely fulfilling the precise terms of Mr Hepher's contract. If so, that contract should never have been written.

Sir Iain Vallance, its chairman, has already shown great sensitivity by handing over some of his earnings to charity. But the sort of package given to Mr

Hepher, including share options and other perks, makes it very difficult for those not swept up in the fat cat hysteria to defend more acceptable levels of pay.

Breaking up is hard to do

□ THERE IS nothing like a spot of DIY to provoke bitter marital discord, as anyone who has tried to hang wallpaper with a loved one will know. The marriage between Boots and WH Smith centred around the Do It All DIY sheds is heading messily for the divorce courts.

The two are citing irreconcilable differences. Smiths wants out, after years of pain. Boots is deeply hurt and believes it can be patched up. I know we've had some tough times of late, my love, but why throw away all the good years?

Do It All, way behind B&Q and Homebase in that market, could be profitable shorn of about a third of the 200-strong

chain, but shedding these stores will be expensive, and Boots does not want to take that cost alone. Assume they do split. Most of the cards are held by Boots — its staff provide much of the Do It All management, and Boots has first refusal or veto on any sale of the Smiths stake.

Boots would want money to take the stores away, not unreasonably given the £50 million investment the loss-making business soaked up last year in addition to the £20 million the chain actually lost. Fine by Smiths, which has a new chief executive who can point to his predecessor to explain any resulting red ink. The two will work out a deal between them quite soon — ideally without recourse to divorce lawyers.

Fat cat flap

□ CALPERS, the huge Californian state pension fund with a reputation for aggressive policing of corporate governance, is over in the UK putting the fear of God into British industry. Well, not all of it. General counsel Richard Koppes says CalPERS is in favour of high rewards for executives who work for them. In other words, yes to fat cats on the treadmill, no to Michael Hepher.

Medeva pays £260m to expand US operations

By OLIVER AUGUST

MEDEVA yesterday bought an American subsidiary of Rhône-Poulenc Rorer and several of its French products for a total of £260 million.

At the same time the pharmaceuticals group announced a rights issue to help to fund the acquisition.

Medeva said that it wanted the pharmaceuticals manufacturer based in Rochester, New York, for which it paid £240 million, to be the flagship of its operations in the United States. It spent an extra £20

million on a group of French pharmaceutical products.

Medeva shares rose 30p to close at 260p after the announcement.

A one-for-six open offer of 50 million new ordinary shares at 220p each will raise £109 million. The remaining £131 million will be met from its existing cash resources and borrowings.

The group announced interim pre-tax profits of around £33 million for the six months to June 30, up on last year's

£28.9 million, and said it expected to raise its interim dividend to 1.65p from 1.4p.

Bill Bogie, chief executive of Medeva, said: "With the restructuring benefit offered by the Rochester site, this is Medeva's most significant step forward in terms of both its operations and its potential to deliver earnings growth for shareholders."

Dr Bogie said that the purchase of the Rochester unit, which includes ten pharmaceutical products, would

lift the US share of the group's total sales to 70 per cent by 62 per cent, and allow scope for restructuring.

"We're buying technology, we're buying products," Dr Bogie said. "We will be able to restructure our business and distribution in the US."

He added that the unit's leading product, a remedy for chronic coughing called Tussionex, which uses patented technology for a delayed release of active ingredients.

Medeva plans to run its US administration from Rochester, where it has taken on 220 staff. It would not comment on possible job cuts in its 1,000 US-based staff.

Rochester's newly acquired pharmaceutical products made an operating profit of \$54.4 million last year, on sales of \$99.7 million. These products are focused on the respiratory, diuretic and antiepileptic areas.

Medeva will also acquire the rights to the patented technology that controls the release of active ingredients.

Turnover rose 10 per cent to £2.89 billion, and operating profit 26 per cent, to £214 million.

Tempus, page 28

Chubb results disappoint

By CLARE STEWART

SHARES in Chubb, the security and locks group, fell 16p to 330p after its year-end figures came in below City forecasts. Pre-tax profits for the year to March rose 9 per cent to £97.1 million, just under the £100 million expected. Sales rose by 7.2 per cent to £765 million.

The headline figures reflect higher redundancy and re-

structuring costs last year, which rose by £1.9 million to £5.5 million. David Peacock, chief executive, said: "If we had not spent that money, our profits would have been in line with forecasts. But it was right to do it to build the business."

Expansion through organic growth and acquisitions is anticipated, said Mr Peacock.

Base Rate

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited announces that its Base Rate has been amended from 6% to 5.75% per annum with effect from 6 June 1996 until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

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ANZ Grindlays Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 6.00% to 5.75% with effect from close of business 6th June 1996.

ANZ Grindlays Bank
Private Banking

13 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LF
Telephone: 0171-930 4811
Member ANZ Group

Bank of Ireland Base Rate

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 7th June 1996 its Base Rate has decreased from 6% to 5.75%



Bank of Ireland

HEAD Office, 38 Queens Street, London EC4R 1BN

NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 7 June 1996:

Solicitors' Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per annum	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Return
3.750%	£250,000 and above	3.80%
3.625%	£100,000 - £249,999	3.67%
3.250%	£25,000 - £99,999	3.29%
2.625%	£2,000 - £24,999	2.65%
1.750%	£500 - £1,999	1.76%
0.750%	£0 - £499	0.75%

† Where appropriate, this will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid (which may be reduced by relevant non-top-up). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.
‡ Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your deposits if the interest payments are retained in the account.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

Pilkington steers way back to black

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

PILKINGTON, the glassmaker, is counting on a price rise of 8 to 10 per cent to beat weak European markets.

The company, whose chief executive is Roger Leverton, made pre-tax profits of £55 million for the year to March 31 after a £155 million exceptional charge for restructuring. Last year, it incurred a £24 million loss, including exceptional.

The restructuring, which has cost 600 jobs, mainly in Germany, will involve another 1,300, should benefit the company by about £70 million a year when complete in three years' time. The £155 million charge is made up of £82 million in asset write-downs and £73 million for redundancy and restructuring costs.

Pilkington is counting on a price rise of 8 to 10 per cent to beat weak European markets.

Competitors are also raising their prices, suggesting the increases may stick.



Leverton: restructuring

Tempus, page 28

3i sees value of investments climb

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE venture capital firm 3i enjoyed a 23.1 per cent rise in its net asset value per share to 426p at the end of the year to March 31, helped by increases in stock market values worldwide.

In its first set of full-year figures since floating in summer 1994, 3i reported a 25.2 per cent increase in the FTSE All Share total return index and a 25.6 per cent rise in the FTSE smallcap total return index.

Brian Larcombe, finance director, said 3i's UK return was 28.3 per cent, but the total return was held back by a 12.1 per cent international return.

Mr Larcombe said the current year had started well, with "investment levels continuing at a fairly high level". He said the new issue market had

been particularly strong, with five flotation in the last two months.

3i invested £613 million over the year just ended, a rise of 13.7 per cent. It invested in 554 businesses. Larger new investments during the year included £20 million in Lloyd's of London Press and £13 million in Crompton Specialist Papermakers. Management buyouts and buyins represented 56 per cent of the total amount invested and 33 per cent of the larger investments.

The dividend for the year is 12.5 per cent higher at 8.1p, with the final payment of 5p due on July 26.

Mr Larcombe said the firm had found the market becoming more competitive, which put pressure on investment terms. But this had not given the company cause for concern about transaction terms.

Results to savour from Siebe.

(Record results from appliance controls to process automation.)



Preliminary results for the financial year ended April 6, 1996

	1995	1996	% change
Turnover (£m)	2,599.1	2,146.2	up 21.1%
Pre-tax profit (£m)	134.1	275.1	up 20.4%
Earnings per share (pence)	45.0	37.5	up 20.0%
Dividend per share (pence)	13.2	12.1	up 10.8%
Control Systems	Temperature & Appliance Controls	Industrial Equipment	United

These results, which represent a remarkable achievement for the Group, are particularly gratifying since they not only demonstrate that we can deliver an outstanding performance for shareholders where markets are buoyant, but

that we can also deliver robust results from those regions of the world where economies are not so strong. This is testimony indeed to the successful way in which Siebe is managed."

Celebrations short-lived over interest rate cuts

THE stock market gave a lukewarm response to the latest cut in bank base rates, to 5.75 per cent, which followed hot on the heels of Wednesday's monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. The cut was achieved with the help of sterling's recent gains on the foreign exchange.

The cut was quickly followed by the Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender, which reduced the rate it charges borrowers. The move to cheaper money appears to have caught most of the City on the hop.

The one man who will have cause to give a wry smile is Roger Bootle, chief economist of Midland Bank, who is on record as forecasting a drop in rates to 5.1 per cent before the end of the summer.

But the celebrations in the equity market proved short-lived. An early mark-up saw the FT-SE 100 index touch 3,774.7. It failed to hold on to the early gains, closing 6.9 points up at 3,763.0. Business was again selective, with a total of 852 million shares traded. A hesitant start on Wall Street did not help.

Whispers in the Square Mile last night claimed BBA will launch its blocking bid for Lucas today. The terms are expected to value Lucas at around 275p a share. Last week, Lucas announced plans for a £3.2 billion merger with Vistry Corporation in the US. But there is also talk that another bidder may be lurking in the wings. Lucas closed steady at 254p, while BBA rose 8p to 303p.

The prospect of the mortgage price war is intensifying took some of the recent shine off the banks. Abbey National fell 7p to 553p, Barclays Bank 13p to 763p, Lloyds TSB 8p to 314p, National Westminster 7p to 620p, and Royal Bank of Scotland 7p to 532p.

There was support for Standard Chartered, that old take-over favourite, which rose 15p to an all-time high of 665p. Brokers say that NatWest Securities is to take fund managers to see the group's Far East operations.

British Gas firms 1p to 190p, with the market deciding that the domestic gas price review from Ofgas, the industry regulator, was unlikely to do much damage to profits.

A profits upgrading by ABN



Ewen MacPherson, right, and Brian Larcombe of 3i, up 1p

Amro Hoare Govett was good for British Airways, which rose 11p to 549p.

Medeva, the fast-growing pharmaceutical group, surged 32p to 263p as it revealed plans to pay Rhône-Poulenc Rorer £258 million for several parts of its business. The businesses concerned were its Rochester operations in France, which used to form part of Fisons

describes the move as a strategic investment but will consider its position after a year. TT closed all-square at 357p.

Anaxim, the Dublin oil exploration group, rose 5p to 64p after International Finance announced it wanted seven million shares at up to 60p.

Siebe responded to an im-

pressive increase in full-year profits with a rise of 1p to 370p, while profits news lifted Northern Ireland Electricity 19p to 433p. The venture capitalist, whose chief executive is Ewen MacPherson and financial director Brian Larcombe, also firm 1p to 453p, having raised pre-tax profits last year from £75.8 million to £89.9 million. But there was a cool response to figures from Chubb, the security specialist, which closed 16p lower at 336p.

Mayflower Corporation, the specialist engineer that makes body panels for the MG Rover car, shook the market by asking shareholders to dig deep into their pockets for a major acquisition. It rose 121p to 129p.

European Colour, the printing inks specialist, firm 1p to 75p. Pre-tax profits leapt 55 per cent, with earnings 32 per cent higher as the group increased markets share. The outcome was boosted by the Dycoms acquisition.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices at the shorter end benefited most from the latest cut in base rates, resulting in a further steepening of the yield curve.

The market shrugged aside worries about a revival in inflationary pressures to enjoy an early mark-up. In fact, news of the cut in rates was greeted with a move that saw prices revert to their overnight levels. Only when US bonds opened on a firmer note did London move again into positive territory. In the future pits, the September series of the long gilt closed 611/16 higher at £102 1/16 as the number of contracts completed soared to 70,000. At the shorter end of the market, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished £1 1/16 better at £102 1/16, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent added 5p to 97 1/2.

□ **NEW YORK:** Trading on Wall Street was nervous in anticipation to Friday's May jobs report and its possible effect on interest rates. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.30 points at 5,684.18.

before RPI launched its £1.8 billion bid last year. Ironically, Rhône-Poulenc outbid Medeva for Fisons. To help finance the deal, Medeva is raising £108.7 million through a placing and open offer of 49.4 million shares at 220p.

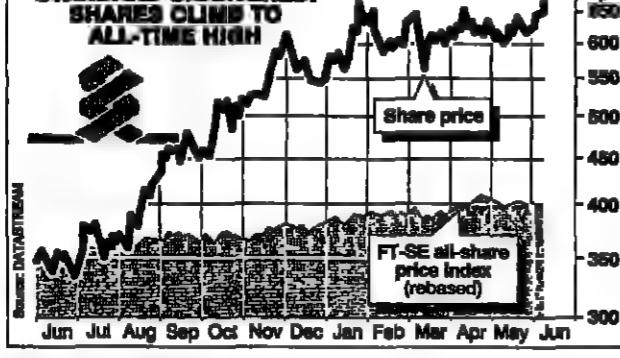
The profit downturn at Boots came as no surprise and the shares firm 2p to 608p. The group revealed that its share of losses at Do-It-All,

£212 million, struck before charges of £151 million relating to the cost of restructuring. Cazenove, BZW and Charterhouse, the company's joint brokers, are forecasting around £220 million for the current year.

Johnston Group surged 105p to 478p on the news that TT Group wanted to buy 2,935 million shares, 27.46 per cent, at 500p in the market place. It

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Source: Datamonitor

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□ **MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION:** Average fatstock prices at representative markets on June 5 were:

Beef (kg/lb) 113.50 146.43 101.64
(+/-) -0.42 -3.24 +2.25
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(+/-) -0.42 -3.24 +2.25
Lamb (kg/lb) 113.60 146.40 101.64
(+/-) -0.42 -3.24 +2.25
Scotland: mutton 147.00 147.00 104.05
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□ **STANDARD CHARTERED: SHARES CLIMB TO ALL-TIME HIGH**

Source: Datamonitor

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Siebe looks for early boost from Unitech

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SIEBE, the engineering company, said yesterday that strong growth was continuing in its main European and American markets, with new business bookings about 15 per cent ahead.

The company was also bullish about prospects for Unitech, which it bought for £500 million last month. Barrie Stephens, Siebe chairman, said that the deal may enhance earnings in the first year, with Unitech's markets also showing growth.

The comments came after Siebe unveiled strong full-year results for the year to April 6, with pre-tax profits growing

by 20 per cent, to £31 million. The results impressed the City, leading many analysts to raise profit forecasts, and the shares rose 22p, to 880p.

Overall turnover increased by 21 per cent, to £2.6 billion, while currency exchange movements boosted profits by £3.8 million. The company's nine new small acquisitions, bought for a total of £24 million, contributed operating profit of £28 million.

Siebe said that the control systems division was continuing to make market share gains from its US rivals Emerson Electric and Honeywell Inc. Operating profits rose by 22 per cent, to £153 million, aided by organic sales growth of 17 per cent.

The temperature and appliances controls division increased profits by 10 per cent to £141 million, although volumes fell in North America and the European market also showed some weakness. The three smaller divisions, which include compressed air, mechanical engineering and safety products, also raised profits by 39 per cent to £74 million.

Siebe raised its research and development budget by 32 per cent, to £115 million. Capital spending grew by 26.5 per cent, to £189 million.

The company said that it would continue to set financial targets of organic growth of 10 per cent and a 5 per cent cut in costs to provide a 15 per cent rise in profits. Siebe achieved a total of 17.3 per cent organic growth last year, including 12.6 per cent sales growth.

Year-end gearing was 41 per cent, including the purchase of 25 per cent of Unitech in March. The company was confident that strong cash flow would limit gearing to about 50 per cent by the end of this year, in spite of remaining payments for Unitech.

The total dividend rises by 10 per cent, to 13.3p. An 8.87p final dividend is due on October 1.

John Simpson, Mayflower's chief executive, said the acquisition of Pullman for £172 million, which will require additional bank funding, represents a further step forward in Mayflower's strategy to develop a global automotive engineering business.

Pullman's only business is Clevite, maker of vibration control components for the automotive industry. Mayflower's last major purchase



Dr Patrick Haren is expected to see Northern Ireland Electricity criticised

Showa to open plant in Wales

WALES welcomed its 50th Japanese-owned company yesterday as Showa Corporation, the automotive components manufacturer, announced plans to establish a manufacturing plant in the Cynon Valley (Iola Smith writes).

The £10 million investment will create 200 much-needed jobs in an unemployment black spot. This will be Showa's first car component manufacturing plant in Europe, and it will produce power steering and suspension systems for the Continent's carmakers.

Wales won the investment despite strong competition from the West Midlands and Spain.

Japanese-owned companies have invested £1.5 billion in Wales since the first company, Takiron, moved to the principality in 1972. Together, these companies have created 16,000 jobs.

Tempus, page 28

Mayflower acquisition cash call

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MAYFLOWER Corporation, the specialist engineering company, aims to raise £139 million through a seven-for-ten rights issue to help to fund the purchase of the Pullman Company, owner of Clevite, the US component maker.

John Simpson, Mayflower's chief executive, said the acquisition of Pullman for £172 million, which will require additional bank funding, represents a further step forward in Mayflower's strategy to develop a global automotive engineering business.

Mayflower's 95p per share rights issue has been underwritten by BZW and Merrill Lynch.

The Pullman acquisition is conditional upon shareholders' approval and the company has called an extraordinary general meeting for June 24.

Mayflower said it has made a good start to 1996 and is optimistic about its first-half results. It is best known as maker of the bodies for Rover Group's MGF sports car and for the next generation of Rolls-Royce and Bentley models.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win an MGF worth £17,000



Today The Times gives you the chance to win an exciting new MGF. Simply collect six differently numbered tokens and complete the entry form which was published on Monday and will appear again tomorrow for you to win the MGF 1.8i.

The relaunch of the MGF after a 15-year gap, revives the golden days of carefree motoring and is the first car Rover has built without Honda or BMW influence since the Austin Montego.

It is an affordable and stylish open-top British sports car for the nineties with excellent handling and performance. Unlike its predecessors, it has a mid-engined, rear wheel drive layout and one of the most advanced production engines in the world. Because the weight of the engine is over the driven wheels the car is well-balanced and has excellent grip under acceleration allowing you to handle bends at speed.

Although the look is modern, the design of the grille reflects a MG's sporty heritage. It is a design that has produced a

frame stiffer than any convertible other than a Mercedes SL and the car barely feels a ripple in the road; the ride is one of the best in any two-seater. Other features include a driver's airbag as standard and seatbelt pre-tensioners which tighten the seatbelts just before the airbag is activated to help keep the occupants securely seated; power steering, spoke alloy wheels and independent suspension all round with double wishbones, plus front and rear anti-roll bars.

Two simple latches fasten the hood to the header rail so you can fold it down in under a minute. For extra fresh air with the hood up, you can unzip the tinted plastic backlight.

The MGF has one of the strongest bodies ever constructed for a sports two-seater ensuring structural safety. Inside, features include ivory-coloured dials of the instrument panel which recall the traditional MG design, a 20 watts per channel electronic stereo radio cassette and Radio Data System with traffic information to help you avoid jams. Electric windows are provided as standard. Luggage space is also generous with room for two full sets of golf clubs.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the MGF 1.8i collect six differently numbered tokens from those appearing daily in The Times until Saturday, June 15, 1996. (You may enter twice if you wish.) Send them with the completed entry form to The Times MG Prize Draw Competition, PO Box 3385, London, SE7 7ZL.

PRIZE DRAW CONDITIONS
The prize draw is open to all 16+ readers over 18. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received before the closing date of June 21, 1996. The prize is non-transferable. There is no cash alternative. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.



Northern Ireland Electricity surges 23%

BY EILEEN McCABE

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity (NIE) recorded a 23 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £10.4 million in the year to March 31. Sales revenues for the period were up 5.4 per cent, to £524.7 million.

Earnings per share went up 43.4 per cent, to 58.3p, largely helped by a 14.9 per cent share buy-back in August 1995. The shares rose 19p, to 43p.

David Jeffries, chairman, attributed the "excellent" results to a combination of tight controls on operating costs and increased sales.

However, the figures from NIE, of which Dr Patrick Haren is chief executive, are widely expected to attract criticism by groups representing both domestic consumers and big industrial users over the high cost of NIE's service. Electricity costs in Northern Ireland are among the highest in the UK.

Mr Jeffries said that the company had devoted considerable time and effort to the important issue of tariffs. He added that a combination of government aid towards the reduction of generation costs and the decision by NIE to restrict 1995/96 tariff increases to an average of 2.3 per cent would go some way to addressing the problem.

The outcome of NIE's regulatory review, due in March 1997, would "set the pattern of our development in the years ahead", Mr Jeffries said.

He added: "With a fair outcome from the review... we should be well placed to continue to deliver real value to both customers and shareholders."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Oxford Instruments advances to £21m

OXFORD INSTRUMENTS, the advanced instrumentation company, increased pre-tax profits to £21.5 million, from £18 million, in the year to the end of March. Earnings improved to 27.6p a share, from 23.9p, and the total dividend is lifted to 6.5p a share, from 5.7p, with a 4.6p final. The shares fell 5p to 51.5p. Turnover rose to £146.3 million, from £125.2 million. New orders improved 15 per cent, to £151 million, with the increase gathering pace in the second half. Exports and overseas sales accounted for more than 85 per cent of output. At the year-end, net cash was £16.4 million, an increase of £800,000 since the previous year-end despite expenditure of £4.9 million on new manufacturing facilities.

Operating profits were 22 per cent higher, at £13.6 million. Sales and service companies in America, Germany and Japan all traded at a profit. A strong contribution was made by the microanalysis business, which was strengthened by the acquisition of Microspec Corporation.

Copper prices tumble

COPPER prices fell by 10 per cent yesterday, to their lowest in 25 months. The London Metal Exchange quotation for copper — a guide for pricing contracts worldwide — was \$2,085 a metric ton, against \$2,322 on Wednesday, a drop of 10.2 per cent. At one point yesterday, the price fell to \$1,905. Copper, a major export earner for Chile, Zambia, Zaire and Peru, was quoted at about \$2,600 at the start of the year. Prices of most other base metals, including aluminium, nickel and zinc, were also lower. Gold hit a year low and platinum a two-year low.

Windsor losses leap

WINDSOR, the insurance broker, saw losses deepen to £332,000 before tax from £31,000 in the half-year to March 31 after an exceptional charge of £337,000 against a loss on the sale of investment property. Losses per share were 0.04p (0.16p loss). The company is again offering no interim dividend. The shares closed down 1p to 23.1p. Stuart McDonald has stepped down as chairman, to be replaced by David Low, formerly chairman of Regis Low, a Lloyd's of London broker.

Airsprung slips back

AIRSPRUNG FURNITURE GROUP, the manufacturer of beds, furniture and upholstery, is holding the total dividend at 5.4p a share, with an unchanged 3.7p final, after reporting a fall in profits to £5.4 million before tax, from £6.8 million in the year to March 31. Earnings fell to 13.9p a share from 18.2p. John Pierce, chief executive, said that in spite of the constraints of a dull market and accelerating raw material prices, the underlying business of the group remained sound. The shares fell 3p to 25.2p.

Wyndham at record

WYNDHAM Press Group, the acquisitive printing and packaging company, lifted profits to a record £5.12 million before tax from £3.5 million, in the year ended March 31. Earnings rose to 12.5p a share from 10.8p. A final dividend of 2.7p a share lifts the total payment to 4.3p, from 3.75p. Turnover increased to £36.99 million from £25.96 million, with a £4.64 million contribution from acquisitions. The shares rose 3p to close at 22.8p yesterday.

Chadburn in the red

PORTER CHADBURN, the self-adhesive label company, achieved a 20 per cent increase in operating profits to £4.1 million in the year to March 29. However, at the pre-tax level there was a loss of £4.5 million, compared with profits of £2.96 million, after an £8.6 million goodwill charge arising from the sale of S Ross & Co, announced in March. Adjusted earnings rose to 3.52p a share from 3.06p. There is again no dividend. The shares rose 1p to 39p.

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Midlands Electricity profits edge ahead

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY, the regional company now under American ownership after a joint bid became unconditional yesterday, notched up a marginal rise in pre-tax profits as the distribution price control took effect.

The company, now controlled by General Public Utilities of New Jersey and CINergy of Ohio, edged ahead to £214.1 million from £213.5 million in the year to March 31. The distribution operations saw a fall in operating profits of £12.1 million.

The company offset some of the impact of the regulator's controls in distribution with increased electricity demand from industrial customers. Demand rose 4.2 per cent,

lifted partly by last year's hot summer and higher use of air conditioning.

A price freeze on household bills will be reviewed by July when the British Energy flotation is complete, along with the phasing out of the nuclear levy. The freeze, which applied last year, was extended in April, partly for the nuclear levy consideration and partly because Midlands has been at the centre of bid speculation. Its new owners took over only last month.

Four hundred more jobs went last year as part of the planned three-year programme of job reductions. The company said it had curbed controllable costs by a further 12.7 per cent.

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 7 1996

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERY, PUB & RESTAURANT

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

Lukewarm response to rates cut

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

هكذا من الأصل

CHOICE 1



Tolstoy's epic
War and Peace
goes on stage at the National

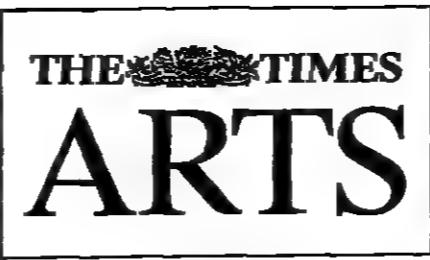
VENUE: In preview at the Cottesloe Theatre



Joanna MacGregor
joins the
celebrations for
Liverpool's hall

VENUE: This afternoon at Philharmonic Hall

CHOICE 2



POP 1

More clenched-fist
stadium rock
from Bryan Adams
on his aptly-named
new album, *18
Til I Die*



POP 2

Spinning towards
oblivion? The
ailing Spin
Doctors manage
only a slight
recovery of form

LONDON

LA BOHEME English National Opera's welcome revival of Steven Pimlott's sumptuously lush production of Puccini's first great opera, *La Bohème*, with Anna Netrebko as Mimi, Marta Hülle as Musetta, John Tomlinson as Rodolfo. The conductor is Alex Ingram. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2, 0171-923 0000. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat June 13, 15, 20, 25, 29, July 2, 4, 6, 13, 30pm; matinees June 14, 29, 2.30pm. £5.

SUMMER EXHIBITION The world's largest annual open contemporary art exhibition, the 22nd Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, opens to the public this Sunday. It provides an opportunity to see 1,332 paintings, sculptures, drawings and models by both famous and less well-known artists and students. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-438 5028 for tickets). Mon-Sun, 10am-6pm. Until August 16. £5.

WAR AND PEACE Stephen Baynes' production with the National Theatre's new *Edmund* is the adaptation of the Tolstoy epic, co-directed by Nancy Medler and Poly Teale. Expect imaginative exploration. National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2222). Preview begins tonight-Wed, 6.30pm. Opens June 25, 6.30pm. In rep with *Stonier*. £5.

EDINBURGH The Royal Lyric Theatre Company presents Tom Stoppard's comedy *Rough Crossing* with Bryony McRoberts and John Bell. Diana Rigg, Ken Stott, Hayley Mills. Royal Lyceum, Queen Street (0131-221 9494). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; matinees Sat (not June 8). 2.30pm. £10-£12.50.

LIVERPOOL An afternoon gala concert in the presence of the Queen. In

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Gillian Mosey

ELSEWHERE

ALDEBURGH The Aldeburgh Festival of Music and Art begins today, this year celebrating the 70th birthday of Harry Werner and the centenary of the birth of Benjamin Britten and W H Auden. A survey of Henze's work begins tomorrow, 7.30pm with Oliver Knussen conducting the English Chamber Orchestra in the British premiere of *Appassionamento*. On Sunday (3.30pm), Steuart Bedford conducts a concert performance of Bruckner's *Te Deum* in the church of Livermore. Details, box office (01725 455 545).

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LONDON GALLERIES Established, Derek Jarman, Arts Film-Makers' Unit, 1988 (0171-533 1471). **CATE GALLERIES** Andy Warhol's *Colours* (0171-453 6665). **DESIGN MUSEUM** 100 Masterpieces: furniture that made the 20th century (0171-378 6700). **Hayes** (0171-228 3144). **LIVERPOOL** Alexander Not The Royal Academy 1996 (0171-820 1322). **THE BLOCKS** (070-470 2400). **NATIONAL GALLERY** *Degas: Beyond Impressionism* (0171-747 2695). **TELE** Leon Kossoff (0171-887 8000).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingdon's assessment of theatre allowing on London

■ House full, returns only

■ Seats available

■ Seats at price

WAREHOUSE A 1985 Playwriting Competition. Guit, sassy and rockabilly, with a dash of Drogolski, croaks. Clues on Suicide. Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4080). Tue 8.30pm. Wed-Sat 8pm. Sun 5pm.

IS PASSION An unromantic musical from Sonderh, but Mina Freud remarkably good as a vicious man-hunter who gets her man. Michael Ball and Helen Hobson. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-944 5860). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun 5pm.

PRESIDENT LAUGHTER Peter Bowles plays a gay-orientated self-portrait as a so-so production. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-915 1763). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Sun 4pm.

ROSE AND JULIET Lucy Wyndham's Juliet is one of the better things in Adrian Noble's so-so

TOUCH Information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

COMEDY OF ENRICO The New Shakespeare Company's season opens with Clare Lynch's production of *Comedy of Errors* with Debra Bussell and Paul White. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2421). Even, 8pm; matin, 6.30pm. Matin, 8pm. Until June 25.

ELMINS Spatted revival of the 20-year-old West End show. Prokofiev's *War and Peace* with Tim Webber plays the Parks in his prime. Positively no emphasis on the late-night gorging on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-486 2421). Even, 8pm; matin, 6.30pm. Matin, 8pm. Until June 25.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Peter Hall's production with David Pountney, with Mica Pearl, David Rintoul, Nicky Henson, Tim Thomsen, George Withers and John McCullum. Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Mon-Sat 7.30pm; matin Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

KONA RAIN Four old schoolfriends meet up on the Scottish island in Peter Mullan's play, winner of the

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THE CONFESSOR (15; 18) Complex drama sour round clarity, truth and Alastair MacLeod a dazzling cinema debut for theatre director Richard Glatzer. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-471 4922). Lumiere (0171-926 0511). **MICHAEL FALTHAM** Road (0171-370 2623). Preview, 7pm. Matin, 8pm. Until June 25.

GIRL (16) Stifled and muddled comedy from Spike Lee about phone sex, with Thora Birch. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-727 2157). **UCI WHITELeY** (0171-727 1332). **WOMAN** (16) Prokofiev's *War and Peace* with Tim Webber plays the Parks in his prime. Positively no emphasis on the late-night gorging on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-486 2421). Even, 8pm; matin, 6.30pm. Matin, 8pm. Until June 25.

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■ POP 3

Farewell, Jumping Jack Flash; hello Cole Porter: Charlie Watts chronicles his return to jazz



■ POP 4

The rush of instant fame has hit Divine Comedy hard, but their music deserves success



■ POP 5

Give her a little more time: Gabrielle strives for new sophistication at the Jazz Café



■ TOMORROW

Raves, drugs and the music biz: is it time that the cosy complicity was ended?



In a sentimental mood: Watts returns to jazz, his first love, with a fine new album

Nervous Neil Hannon does not consider his part in the Divine Comedy a role for television

There is a big, old-fashioned brass handle on the door — it overhangs the table, shoved up in the doorway, and speaks of a time when pubs could afford solid brass handles for their doors. Neil Hannon of the Divine Comedy is hanging onto this handle as if his life depended on it; face pale green, eyelids white, sick with nerves and shaking like a puppy that has just been dragged out of a well. In three hours he will be appearing on *ITV Friday*, playing his exquisite new single, *Something for the Weekend*.

Fame has suddenly and unexpectedly called for Hannon, and with it a swarm of nausea and bewilderment:

God's plaything

which is why he is in the pub now, drinking nervous glasses of water and trying to steady himself for the ordeal ahead. Hannon was not expecting the week to end up like this — a modest promotional canter around France was all that was planned, until fate stepped in and ensured that, while over at a friend's house, *ITV Friday* presenter Chris Evans heard the delightfully sharp and poised *Weekend* and fell in love with it instantly — to the point of extending his *Radio 1 Breakfast Show* an extra four minutes in order to

play the single for a third time that morning. He is now dragging a reluctant Hannon before 2.4 million people.

"I wish he'd never heard it," Hannon shivers. "I haven't really slept much. I feel a bit... strange."

Hannon, quite literally the son of a preacher man, from Londonderry, was a "small, annoying" boy, and his "alone but not lonely" childhood is perfectly documented in *Songs of Love*, B-side of *Something for the Weekend*. Hannon casts a forgiving eye over the "pale, pubescent beasts who

roam through the streets" and whose games did not include him, because "my type hibernates in bedrooms above/Composing their songs of love."

Accompanied by a harpsichord and acoustic guitar, *Songs of Love* positively bursts with honey-swell and beauty. Hannon is up there with Jarvis Cocker as a songwriter who can pen narrative that drips with wit, observation and humanity, marry it to music that sounds out of time, and sing it with a glitter-struck, Hollywood-sized voice.

Throughout the current *Casanova* album, Hannon takes on the persona of Scott Walker singing incredibly complicated, beautiful arrangements with lyrics written by Dorothy Parker. "Scott Walker's my hero," Hannon confirms. "We recorded some of the album in a studio he'd been in the week before — I asked the engineer which chair he'd sat in and then rushed over to that chair and squirmed around on it, trying to get pregnant. If I ever met him, I'd keel over and talk to his shoes."

All a far cry from the confidently indignant, outraged, orgasmic squeal Han-

non lets loose on *Through a Long and Sleepless Night*, in union with what sounds like 4,000 trumpets taking part in a kinky suffocation game. Having "screamed and screamed and screamed until I've made myself perfectly ill," Hannon recites a litany of desperation on sleepless nights and unrequited love in an increasingly breathless storm of anger, before screaming "I don't really care?" as the trumpets reach for an impossibly shrill climax. The effect is like being hit in the face by a comet. If the Divine Comedy get on *Top of the Pops*, the 1990s, in one stroke, will be better than the 1960s.

An hour after Hannon has appeared, shaded and cool, on our television screens, he ticks into a congratulatory pint and regains his poise enough to explain the ethos behind the Divine Comedy. "All of humanity's basic perceptions are built on a big fib — the universe is infinite, but because nobody can imagine infinity, we lie and pretend that things are finite. And once you realise that we're pretending, you can pretend anything. And this is what I'm pretending my life is — the Divine Comedy."

• *Something for the Weekend* is out on June 11; the album, *Casanova*, is out now on Setanta.

Dreaming in public

THE TIME comes for any pop performer when you must leave the shelter of the studio and prove yourself in concert. In short: shape up on stage, or be forever Bananarama.

Gabrielle's first single, *Dreams*, shot to the top of the charts in 1993, and helped the south London ingénue to take the Best Newcomer Brit Award the following year. During her first, dizzy bout of fame, Gabrielle and her eyepatch became familiar on television but she did not fully embrace live work.

Her extraordinary success this spring with *Give Me A Little More Time* has already recast her in quite credible colours. The lazy rhythms and deep banks of horns that decorate her warm vocals have won the song both popular and critical plaudits.

This more adult sound brings with it a more sophisticated image and a commitment to concerts that sees her guesting with M People at two major outdoor shows in the middle of the month. For this preview, she summoned a slick eight-piece band to hold

her hand during a challenging engagement at the Jazz Café.

Opening with *Going Nowhere* and *Because of You*, two of the other hits from her debut album, she moved tentatively into songs from her new, self-titled second album such as *I Live in Hope* and *People May Come*, in which the tasteful performance was undermined by her inability to project herself beyond the first couple of rows.

Dreams, her encore, was by a distance the most confidently played offering. Her voice will never be sonorous, but it is soulful; apart from one moment on *Give Me A Little More Time* in which she missed a high note by a country mile, by the evening's end, Gabrielle had done her reputation no harm at all.

PAUL SEXTON

Take me back to Birdland

David Sinclair meets Rolling Stone Charlie Watts in his other incarnation — as a jazzman

they could do, and a lot of things I might be asked to do, I know I couldn't. Technically, I'm very limited."

But far from being a dabbler, Watts insists that jazz was, and still is, his first musical love. "I was 14 when I bought my first Charlie Parker record. In those days it was a big deal to know who was on a record. If somebody couldn't recognise it was, say, Joe Wilder playing trumpet without seeing the label, they'd had it. You didn't talk to the bloke. Kenny Clarke, Art Blakey, these are the great drummers and always will be."

"People tell me I'm part of rock'n'roll, but it's not my world at all,"

"He is such a wonderful talent," Watts enthuses. "You don't get the chance to hear a singer presented in this way too often, and he has such a poignant quality to his voice. Every time I hear [the song]

"Highflying Bird," first published in 1964. A follow-up album, *A Tribute to Charlie Parker with Strings*, was released in 1992.

But none of those preceding albums could claim to be as timely as *Long Ago & Far Away*. With young club-goers grooving to the sounds of Frank Sinatra and Perry Como, and old staggers from Tony Bennett to Burt Bacharach back in town and playing to sold-out houses, the easy-listening revolution is apparently in full swing. Watts is stunned to discover that this kind of music is once again fashionable. "Is it? I always get the feeling I'm totally out of vogue."

He is predictably vague about the commercial viability of these records. "We all got paid for turning up at the studio — £1,000 each for the week or something — but whether it sells enough to cover all that, I don't know. That's one of the things I should have found out by now, I suppose."

He rarely listens to pop

music and never to the records he has made with the Stones, keeping his dial firmly tuned to Radio 3 when at home, even though he feels they play far too much opera ("I prefer ballet music myself").

But while Watts obviously couldn't care less about fashion, style is another matter. A fastidiously well-dressed and manicured man who has tailors in London (Tommy Nutter of Savile Row, Paris (Hermès) and New York, Watts is a connoisseur of style. From drummers ("Kenny Clarke was the coolest, most chic-looking player — the Fred Astaire of the kit") to cricketers ("Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara are the best-looking batsmen; David Gower was the last one we had"), Watts gauges his heroes as much by how stylishly they perform as by what they have achieved.

"My suits are one of my biggest pleasures. My father was a lorry driver for British Railways and he had a tailor in Lower Marsh Street in the East End. He used to take me sometimes to get bits there. I've still got suits that were made for me 25 years ago. If I have a big argument with my wife, she sometimes threatens to cut all the sleeves off. That's the ultimate threat."

Presumably it has not come to that yet, since Watts has been married to his wife, Shirley, for 31 years, an extraordinary achievement considering the nature of his employment. "She's never liked the work I work in. I don't think any intelligent woman would. But I couldn't have done it without her."

• *Long Ago & Far Away* is released by Virgin on Monday

He rarely listens to pop



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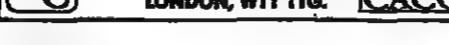
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M

EDUCATION

Degrees of superiority

Women students no longer achieve the same academic success as men, says Gerry McCrum

Professor Richard Lynn argued in *The Times* last month that female inferiority at university in the higher reaches of performance, is easily explained by the results of IQ tests. He finds males have bigger brains than females and this leads to a slightly superior average male IQ score. This small difference in IQ doubles the number of males, relative to females, in the IQ range above 130. This is the IQ range normally needed to obtain a first-class degree, so women are predicted to obtain fewer firsts than men.

Professor Lynn confirms this to be so in Ireland today. Other evidence he quotes comes from studies of British universities in general and Oxford and Cambridge in particular. Where Oxbridge is concerned, it has to be said that we are at a low point in female academic performance. In some subjects, for instance in medicine and law at Cambridge, women match the men. But in general, Professor Lynn is correct: males clearly outperform females.

For example, if for a male student the probability of a first in English is 100, then for a female it is 57 at Oxford, 50 at Cambridge and 48 at the rest of the English and Welsh universities taken together. This is the position today (an average from the years 1989 to 1993).

However, 25 years ago things were different. Then in English at Oxford and Cambridge, but not at the other universities, women matched the men. Averaged over the five years 1972 to 1976, the probabilities for females were 96 at Oxford, 108 at Cambridge and 47 at other universities (with the male probability at 100).

It may be argued that Oxbridge from 1972 to 76 over-selected women, so female undergraduates then had a superior A-level score to male undergraduates. This generated a cluster of female high achievers at Oxbridge, whereas in the nation as a whole female performance in English was measured fairly by the modest value of 47 obtained at other universities.

That this is not so is shown in Figure 1 which demonstrates the probability of a first-class degree in English for female candidates, compared to male, considering only men and women with A-level scores of AAA or AAB. For this high-achieving group at A level, homogenous apart from gender, the 1972-76 first-class probabilities are 94 for women at Oxford, 111 at Cambridge and 54 at other universities. So the women essentially matched the men at Oxbridge but not elsewhere.

There are other ways of skimming off the top male and female



Inequality of the sexes: exam results of Oxbridge students show a strong probability that few women will get a first-class degree

students reading English, in order to compare like with like. For example, by comparing the probability of a first for males and females with three As at A level. The result is the same. The Class 1 performances in English at Oxford and Cambridge of males and females were essentially equal in 1972-76, but not in 1989-93.

In a small number of subjects over the years there was little change in performance. In medicine and law at Cambridge women then did as well as the men, and continue to do so now. In mathematics, taking Oxford and Cambridge results together, Figure 2 women performed less well than men in 1972-76 and continue to perform less well now, scoring a Class 1 probability, year by year, between

40 and 60. In general, however, for most subjects there was a drop in female achievement, illustrated for English and modern languages in Figure 2. History has today a female Class 1 probability close to 40 — the lowest for an important subject at Oxbridge. The collapse in female performance occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

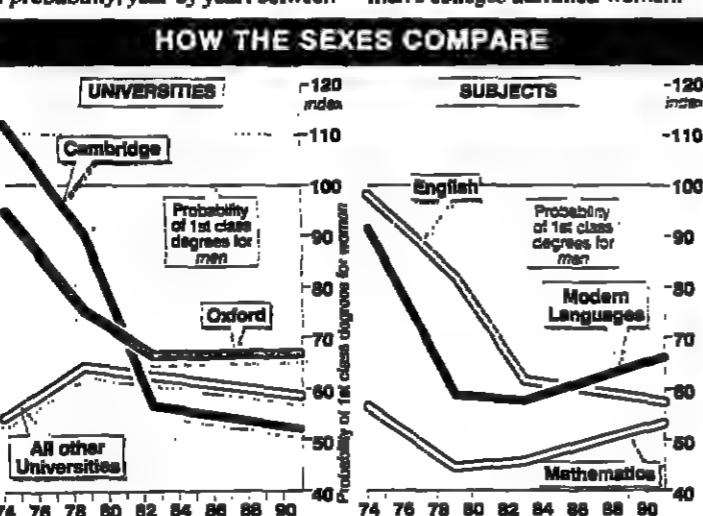
I am looking to explain these results, it is natural to consider the great Oxbridge social innovation of the 1970s — gender mixing of the colleges. This revolution commenced slowly, first at Cambridge with three men's colleges admitting women in 1972, followed by a further two colleges four years later. At Oxford in 1974, five men's colleges admitted women.

The data for female Class 1 performance in 1972-76 at Oxford refer to women from single-sex colleges; at Cambridge only a small number of women from mixed colleges graduated in 1975 and 1976. Apart from this latter group, the 1972-76 data refer to women from single-sex colleges. Today, by contrast, the vast majority of Oxbridge students graduate from mixed colleges — as in the rest of the nation's universities. Could this be the explanation of the collapse, in most subjects, of female academic achievement? Is it possible that females perform better in single-sex colleges? If so, then there is a curious irony in the preference of female applicants for mixed, formerly male, colleges. It is this which has reduced female single-

sex colleges to an endangered species. Only one remains at Oxford and two at Cambridge.

I doubt that Professor Lynn will find satisfaction in the relative performance at university of males and females in the aggregate. It may be, however, that detailed examination of female achievement in terms of verbal and non-verbal reasoning and spatial abilities will be fruitful. Why, for example, do women do so well in law, medicine and chemistry but not in history, mathematics and physics? It is unlikely that a single unilinear classification, such as IQ, can scale abilities at the highest level in such different subjects.

• Dr McCrum is Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford.



Flashback when Tony Blair and Benazir Bhutto were at Oxford in the early 1970s, female students were academically stronger

Hugh Thompson on the choice between college and sixth form and John O'Leary on funding

Head to head in a battle to lure the 16-year-olds

At 16, pupils and their parents are now faced with a bewildering choice: to stay on at school (if they can), go to a further education or sixth-form college, or move to a smaller or more academically rigorous school. Should they switch because of their choice of A levels, or would vocational courses be more useful?

Many parents feel that if they are going to spend limited resources on their children's education, it is at the A-level stage, which launches them into university, that the money is best spent. Others feel that privately-educated but under-achieving teenagers are better served at increasingly competitive sixth-form colleges.

Some parents whose children transfer at 16 find that the readjustment after moving can take as long as a year, by which time, in a two-year course, too much time has been lost.

Gibbitas Truman and Thring, the educational consultants, have noticed increasing numbers of people coming for advice about what to do and where to go to. Peter Jennings says: "It is a very natural time to make a break. Many teenagers feel they have outgrown their school and are looking for wider and different horizons. This is especially true of girls."

Teenagers are often looking for wider horizons'



Students at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge

more mature. They are also twice as likely to run away from home.

One of the most successful sixth-form colleges in the South-East of England is Godalming College, which recruits from state schools and the private sector. Lynn Le Versha, the Vice-Principal, says: "Many parents looking at our A-level results realise their children can do better without paying thousands of pounds in fees. We offer a wider range of subjects at A level — psychology and law, for example. What we have now in education is a marketplace where the customer is king, and at the customer is spoilt for choice."

She adds: "I didn't want to go to a sixth-form college. I wouldn't have been able to work in a more relaxed atmosphere. The first weeks were strange, but you expect that. Everyone has been very friendly. It was definitely the right thing to do."

One of the reasons why girls seem to feature more than boys in the 16-plus swings and roundabouts is that they are

Election and vouchers could rock the boat

Parents may be approaching the high water mark of choice in state provision for the 16-19 age group. The variety of qualifications may continue to grow, as Sir Ron Dearing's report is implemented, but the recent institutional free-for-all may not last.

Whichever party wins the next election, costs will be squeezed at the expensive end of secondary education to do more for primary schools. Labour would be less ready than the current administration to sanction the establishment of new sixth forms, which are often small and uneconomic at first.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, is investigating payment by results, which should benefit high-quality provision of any size. Part of the funding for schools and colleges would be linked to their pass rates at A level or in vocational qualifications. Further education colleges already get about 10 per cent of their funding this way, and schools' generally better results should mean that they do well under the new system.

The increasing lack of inhibition about moving at 16 further steps up the institutional bar for students. The bigger the sixth form, the more viable and financially efficient it becomes, whereas schools which lose out in the 16-plus marketplace find that there is a vicious circle when numbers fall below a critical point.

The sixth form and the achievements of older pupils are a school's flagship, and one that is watched increasingly closely by customers young and old.

voucher, state school provision might still be reduced. A new study by the National Foundation for Educational Research underlines the rapid changes that have been taking place in school sixth forms. With the increased numbers staying on beyond the age of 16, new courses have been developed to cater for a wider ability range and many are spending three years in the sixth form.

Researchers looked in detail at 30 schools of varying character, from a grammar school under pressure to narrow its intake to improve its position in the examination league tables, to a secondary modern which is trying to develop a vocational sixth form to reverse a decline in enrolments.

Most of the students surveyed had stayed in the same school after taking GCSE, although in many cases there was a wide range of options. Teachers complained of aggressive marketing by neighbouring colleges and creaming by selective schools with high academic reputations.

Although significant numbers were attracted by the greater freedom of college life, the more interesting relationship was between staying-on rates and the size of sixth forms. Where the sixth form had fewer than 75 pupils, teenagers were markedly less likely to remain in education of any kind.

• Sixth Form Options: £9 from NFER, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire SL1 2DQ.

Don't weep for a lost golden age

University life has changed for the better, says Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Recently we had dinner with a friend who had just been appointed to a chair in philosophy at a northern university which has an excellent reputation. "What's it like?" I asked, expecting to hear a glowing report. "It's terrible," she said. "I hate it." "But you've only been there two terms," I replied. "What's gone wrong?"

For nearly an hour she listed a catalogue of complaints. Her colleagues were unfriendly; everybody was under pressure to write scholarly articles; her teaching load was enormous; she was expected to sit on several committees; she had been asked to be chairman of her department and the whole thing was a terrible strain. The university was so anxious to maintain its status as a top-flight institution that everyone was overwrought, worked and depressed.

Similar grumblies are widespread throughout the university system: repeatedly academics lament the changed working conditions of the 1990s and long for a return to the old days. Wistfully they look back to what they perceive as a halcyon age in which they were expected to publish only two or three books within a lifetime. Otherwise they spent a few hours a week teaching small groups of highly motivated students and passed the rest of their time in scholarly reading and genteel repartee with their colleagues.

This, of course, is an exaggerated picture. Even in the heady days of the 1960s things were not quite so pleasant. Nonetheless, there is no doubt university life has changed. The Government has cracked the whip. Many more students are now to be educated. An institution is to be judged not only on the quality, but also (horror!) on the quantity of its research. Resources are scarcer; people are busier.

For those of us who were students in the 1960s, the experience was not always quite as idyllic as the dons remember. All too often academic supervision was minimal. Lectures were merely a rereading of notes made 20 years previously. Seminars were cancelled for less than adequate reasons. There was little sense of intellectual excitement and sexual harassment. The teachers were remote and their position in the university hierarchy seemed to depend more on

whom they knew than on their excellence in either pedagogy or scholarship. We were also aware that far too few of our contemporaries were being educated.

Today we have a new system and many of the abuses have been corrected. Lecturers have to ask their students at the end of the course to fill in an appraisal form. There is now the mechanism for students to point out that they have been neglected or that their teachers have made no attempt to prepare their courses. Such charges are taken seriously. Classes may be bigger now than in the past, but they are also better.

Another major advance has been the recognition that research must be judged in an international context. This shift in perception is reflected in the criteria used to determine the quality of individual departments. In order to attain the highest rating, evidence of international standing must be illustrated.

Similar grumblies are widespread throughout the university system: repeatedly academics lament the changed working conditions of the 1990s and long for a return to the old days. Wistfully they look back to what they perceive as a halcyon age in which they were expected to publish only two or three books within a lifetime. Otherwise they spent a few hours a week teaching small groups of highly motivated students and passed the rest of their time in scholarly reading and genteel repartee with their colleagues.

This, of course, is an exaggerated picture. Even in the heady days of the 1960s things were not quite so pleasant. Nonetheless, there is no doubt university life has changed. The Government has cracked the whip. Many more students are now to be educated. An institution is to be judged not only on the quality, but also (horror!) on the quantity of its research. Resources are scarcer; people are busier.

For those of us who were students in the 1960s, the experience was not always quite as idyllic as the dons remember. All too often academic supervision was minimal. Lectures were merely a rereading of notes made 20 years previously. Seminars were cancelled for less than adequate reasons. There was little sense of intellectual excitement and sexual harassment. The teachers were remote and their position in the university hierarchy seemed to depend more on

• The author teaches Jewish theology at the University of Kent. He is a visiting professor to the universities of Middlesex and Wales, Lampeter.

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Volunteer your way into work

Working in the voluntary sector can be personally satisfying — and a good career move, says Jennai Cox

To hear this week that nearly three quarters of young people leaving the Prince's Trust volunteers scheme find a job or training within three months has come as no surprise to those working in the voluntary sector.

A recent survey of 500 human resource directors at leading companies suggests that a CV featuring voluntary work makes a job applicant more desirable and is thought the best way of acquiring skills to bridge the gap from education to work.

Published weeks after business leaders described young people as unemployable, *The Value of Volunteering* shows they develop self-confidence and teamwork through being volunteers and are thought to have more initiative, enhanced negotiation skills and to be better at managing their time than those who engage in student politics or have travelled.

Community Service Volunteers (CSV), which commissioned the research and arranges placements for 3,000 young people each year, said being thrown in at the deep end forced them to develop the instincts and skills they would use in the workplace. Elisabeth Hoodless, CSV's executive director, says it is becoming important to employers no longer impressed by paper qualifications alone.

"Voluntary work equips young people with attitudes and skills," she says. One accountancy firm told her that if someone could teach mathematics in an inner city, they could cope with any of their audit clients.

Employers have little difficulty finding candidates who pass their benchmark requirements, according to Roly Cockman, chief executive of the Association of Graduate

Recruiters. What they look for is someone who stands out. He adds: "Initiative, teamwork, the ability to communicate effectively, all acquired doing voluntary work, are among recruiters' main criteria. Employers ask: 'What else has this person got to offer? Has what they have done demanded much of them?'

David Blake of the Woolwich Building Society, which took part in the survey, believes that large companies that increasingly donate money and encourage employees to work for voluntary bodies look more positively on people who have already shown this tendency. "Too many people have concentrated on their academic work," he says. Employers also consider a gap year to have been thrown away if not convinced it has been used constructively. "Voluntary work shows a person has got involved. It gives them the ability to work at all levels of society and adds that bit more to their knowledge."

The Royal Mail encourages employees to get involved in local voluntary projects as a way of persuading them to develop new skills. Giles Holman, head of Community Action, says: "The recruiting qualities we see are often exhibited in voluntary work. There is a trend towards looking at what people have done on a voluntary basis."

Ian du Pré, national recruitment partner for Coopers & Lybrand, which takes on 600 graduates every year, says seeing demanding projects through also makes people more positive about new challenges. "Volunteering is a very powerful learning process," he says.

Anna Driscoll, 21, who has done voluntary work since she was 12, says it taught her to be open-minded and not to pre-

Young people do not value it; it's not paid'



Volunteering should be seen as more than helping others: there can be other benefits

judge people. "It is not glamorous — but it is not dull," she says. "You get so much out of it." Ms Driscoll finds that friends who have done voluntary work are easier to work with and better organisers.

Working with children with behavioural and learning difficulties taught Stephen Sheilds, 22, about responsi-

bility. He says: "It also shows employers there is something else to me, that I have the motivation to do something instead of just talking about it."

Ruth Thomas believes her experience with voluntary projects gave her the edge in an interview to get on to a competitive university course, a technique she can use later

in job interviews. She says: "Volunteering made me realise you can do anything and do it well. I am more confident and ambitious."

Industry in Education com-

missioned the *Towards Em-*

ployability survey, which

found that young people

lacked respect, integrity, moti-

vation and self-confidence. IIE

recommended volunteering as a way of developing career support. Dr Dick Whitcut, its director, says that the change from school or college in having to cope with situations for which there are no fixed solutions has a hugely developmental effect. "But," he says, "People still view volunteering as do-goody and irrelevant. The message is hard and cold: volunteering is worth doing not merely because of the good you do, but also for the good it does."

Dr Whitcut advocates integrating voluntary work with the education process, but neither the Government's Making a Difference campaign nor the Liberal Democrats' Citizen's Service includes the concept. Labour is looking at ways for further education qualification credits to be awarded for voluntary service and a document laying out its plans is expected later this year.

All three parties support the Prince's Trust scheme, but organisations representing the voluntary sector are wary of political ideas.

Elizabeth Murray of the National Association of Voluntary Bureaux, says: "Volunteering must be at the volition of young people. We need a climate of desire without compulsion."

Andrea Kelmanson, the Volunteer Centre's director, says that young people respond differently to voluntary work and still have difficulty with the connotations it carries.

"They have grown up with the concept of individualism and the idea that there is no such thing as society," she says. "Young people put no value on volunteering because it's not paid and think they should just get on with their career."

Instead, Ms Kelmanson says, volunteering should be part of career progression.

"Of course, employers will consider communication and leadership skills derived from voluntary work important when recruiting young managers. But they should apply that at all levels," she says.

"The message that not everything comes down to money still has a long way to go."

Inspectors on report

Carol Fitz-Gibbon discusses the case for monitoring monitors

Since an organisation to inspect inspectors did not exist, it was necessary to invent one. Necessary for the good of education, for if the inspection regime is inadequate and diverts school energies in unproductive ways, unreasonably undermines public confidence and pretends to an unlikely level of wisdom, then education will suffer.

Before teams were allowed to inspect schools and publish the results, it would surely have been proper to check that the methods employed were adequate. Are the judgments *reliable*? For example, would different inspectors independently inspecting the same school come to the same conclusions?

If judgments are not consistent, then an inspection is a game of Russian roulette for the school. The school faces arbitrary judgments that it cannot test in a court of law. However, even if it could be shown that all inspectors would arrive at similar judgments, we would still need to ask whether this agreement was based on common prejudice, or whether it genuinely measured what it claimed to measure: the effectiveness of the school. The critical question is how valid are the conclusions.

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"The message that not everything comes down to money still has a long way to go."

LEAs to create monitoring projects. Using their funds, they analysed information on examination performance (what has come to be called Value Added) as well as on other factors, such as attitudes, attendance and safety.

The Department for Education and Employment, 12 years after the start of the A-Level Information System (ALIS), has adopted most of its methodology. This represents an example of a phenomenon that has been observed in business and industry: an improvement of the system can be best designed by those who do the work.

Inspection has an important role to play since nothing can substitute for the direct observation of the way a school functions. However, the strengths and weaknesses of inspection must be confronted.

The Conference, Oxford, on June 19, 20 and 21, will start off with evidence from schools, teachers, parents, governors, and all who wish to provide information about how the inspection system is working. The evidence will be taken in confidence, with no press allowed, anonymously if preferred. Written evidence is encouraged.

On the second day this evidence will be summarised and then considered by a panel of independent, disinterested assessors from different backgrounds, including academia and business. On the third day a working group will consider the way forward, including the extension of a pilot system for monitoring inspections.

For further details, apply to the Conference Secretary, 9 Quatre Bras, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JY (01434 604747). Written evidence should be submitted by Monday, if possible.

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General Manager
28 May 1996

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Council provision of accommodation need not be permanent

Regina v Wandsworth London Borough Council and Another, Ex parte Wingrove.

Regina v Same, Ex parte Mansoor.

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward [Judgment May 21]

The expression "accommodation" in section 65(2) of the Housing Act 1985 did not bear a concept of permanence.

Where, therefore, a local housing authority accepted that an applicant was unintentionally homeless and in priority need, it could discharge its duty under section 65(2) of the 1985 Act of securing that accommodation became available for his occupation when it offered him suitable premises on an assured shorthold tenancy with a reasonable period of renewal thereafter.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing appeals by the applicants, Mr Alan Wingrove and Mr Muzaffar Mansoor, from Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, had dismissed their applications for judicial review of decisions of Wandsworth London Borough Council to offer accommodation in the private sector on an assured shorthold tenancy of 12 months to Mr Wingrove and of 18 months to Mr Mansoor, each with a reasonable prospect of renewal thereafter.

Pregnancy dismissal was unlawful

O'Neill v Governors of St Thomas More Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Upper School

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Mrs P. Turner and Mrs R. A. Vickers [Judgment May 24]

Governors of a Roman Catholic school discriminated against a teacher of religious education on the ground of her sex when they constructively dismissed her after she had become pregnant in a relationship with a Roman Catholic priest and the relationship had become public knowledge.

The distinction drawn by the industrial tribunal which had found against the applicant, between pregnancy per se and pregnancy in the circumstances of the case, was legally erroneous. Pregnancy always had surrounding circumstances and the critical question was whether on an objective consideration of all the surrounding circumstances the dismissal was on the ground of sex.

In subsequent industrial tribunal proceedings the applicant's claim of unfair constructive dismissal was accepted by the governors. The tribunal dismissed the claim of sex discrimination.

It found that an important motive for the dismissal was not the applicant's pregnancy per se but the fact that the pregnancy was by a Roman Catholic priest and that as a result the school saw her as being a teacher of religious education and personal relationships as being unacceptable.

There was a distinction between pregnancy and the pregnancy of a religious education teacher by a Roman Catholic priest where that relationship was in the public domain and it was that that was the dominant motive for the dismissal.

Since the industrial tribunal's decision in October 1994 Webb v Emo Air Cargo (UK) Ltd [No 2] [1995] ICR 1030 had been decided by the House of Lords.

The applicant's claim was based on section 1 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 which provided that a person discriminated against, a person on the ground of her sex if he treated her less favourably than he would treat a man. Section 6(2) made it unlawful in the case of dismissal. Section 5(3) provided that a comparison of the cases of persons of different sex must be

Each applicant had challenged the local authority's decision on the ground that the assured shorthold tenancies offered lacked the degree of permanence or the quality of indefinite duration required by section 65(2).

Mr David Watkinson for Mr Mansoor; Mr Robert Latham for Mr Wingrove; Miss Alice Robinson for the Secretary of State for the Environment; Mr Patrick Ground, QC and Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for the local authority.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to the statutory scheme provided by the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1991 and Part III of the Housing Act 1985 and, in particular, to the interim, temporary and full duties in sections 63, 65(3) and 65(2) which arose in various situations.

In R v Brent London Borough Council, Ex parte Awua [The Times July 7, 1995] [1996] 1 AC 55, on which the local authority and the secretary of state had relied, Lord Hoffmann, in a speech which had commanded the assent of all their Lordships, had made a series of rulings which his Lordship summarised:

1. There was no reference to "settled" accommodation in the 1985 Act.

2. It was highly improbable that, having rejected any implication to physical suitability, the House would have accepted the implication of a requirement that the accommodation had to be settled or permanent.

3. The same was true of assumption which a local authority was under a duty to make available to an unintentionally homeless person under section 65(2).

That conclusion was reached in full recognition of the fact that the court and the Department of the Environment had for some years taken a different view.

7. The duty under section 65(2) was simply to secure that accommodation became available for an unintentionally homeless person's

LBC, Ex parte Puhluho [1986] 4 AC 484.

3. A local authority was entitled to regard a person as having accommodation, and therefore not as homeless, if he had accommodation which, having regard to section 58(2B) of the 1985 Act, as inserted by section 14 of the Housing and Planning Act 1985, the authority could reasonably consider that it would be reasonable for him to continue to occupy.

4. The submission that "accommodation" in sections 58 and 60 was to be construed as meaning "a settled home" was rejected, there being no warrant in the language of the statute or the decision of *Ex parte Puhluho* for implying such a concept.

5. "Accommodation" in sections 58(1) and 60(1) of the 1985 Act meant a place which could fairly be described as accommodation and which it would be reasonable for the person in question to continue to occupy, there being no additional requirement that the accommodation should be settled or permanent.

6. The same was true of assumption which a local authority was under a duty to make available to an unintentionally homeless person under section 65(2).

That conclusion was reached in full recognition of the fact that the court and the Department of the Environment had for some years taken a different view.

7. The duty under section 65(2) did not have to be settled or permanent, the only requirement being that the applicant's tenure had not to be

so precarious as to expose him to the likelihood of having to leave within 28 days without any alternative accommodation being available, it had to follow that the offers made to the present applicants were in law capable of amounting to adequate offers under the section.

He rejected the applicants' submission that the passages in *Ex parte Awua* on which reliance had been placed were obiter and inconsistent with rulings in other cases, with other legislation, with the exposition of the law in successive editions of *Homelessness: Code of Guidance for Local Authorities* published pursuant to the 1977 and 1985 Acts and with clear and authoritative statements made in Parliament.

Chancery

The issue in *Ex parte Awua* was whether the applicant was intentionally homeless. That was ultimately dependent on the meaning of "accommodation" in sections 58(1) and 60(1), which had provided the statutory purpose of section 4 frustrated.

Nor did the Housing Bill 1996, currently before Parliament, and in particular clause 51, help in the construction of the 1977 and 1985 Acts.

Codes of Guidance

Lord Hoffmann expressly accepted that his construction differed from that to be found in successive editions of the codes of guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

That was not surprising since the codes were only reflected in the court's rulings over the years, from which Lord Hoffmann was deliberately departing.

The codes could amount at best to persuasive authority on the

construction of the Acts; to the extent that the guidance they contained had now been criticised by the House of Lords, they ceased to be persuasive.

Parliamentary statements

In reliance on *Pepper v Hart* [1993] 1 AC 593 reference had been made to statements made during debate on the Housing and Planning Bill 1986 and the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill 1993.

To be of value as an aid to construction such statements had to be directed to the intended meaning of the provisions which the court was being asked to construe. None was. His Lordship doubted whether they were admissible. In any event they were unhelpful.

In the light of *Ex parte Awua* it was clear that the section 65(2) duty might be discharged by securing the offer of an assured shorthold tenancy of suitable premises.

Since the present attack was a legal not a merits challenge the court had not been invited to quash the local authority's decision as perverse in the Wednesbury sense see *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* [1948] 1 KB 223.

He would dismiss the appeals.

Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Ms Gabrielle O'Connor, Wandsworth; Ms Gabrielle O'Connor, Wandsworth; Treasury Solicitor, Mr Martin Walker, Wandsworth.

Leave to start proceedings out of time

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Davies and Others

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Hobbhouse and Lord Justice Millett [Judgment May 24]

The inadequacy of the reasons for the delay by the Department of Trade and Industry in bringing disqualification proceedings against a company director under section 6 of the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 was

merely one of the considerations which had to be taken into account by a court when deciding whether to give leave for the disqualification proceedings to be commenced out of time.

The registrar granted the application and his decision was upheld by the judge who considered that the reasons given by the secretary of state for the delay were far from satisfactory, but that that consideration was far outweighed by others which pointed towards the granting of leave.

Mr Michael Briggs, QC and Mr Paul Girolami for Mr Davies; Mr A. W. H. Charles and Mr Richard Gillis for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the question was whether, as the secretary of state submitted, the inadequacy of the reasons for the delay was merely one of the considerations which had to be taken into account when deciding whether to give leave for disqualification proceedings to be commenced out of time or whether, as the director submitted, it was always necessary for a satisfactory explanation to be given for the delay, so that if no such explanation was forthcoming, the secretary of state's application for an extension of time must be dismissed.

An applicant for an extension of time must always explain why his application was necessary; that necessarily involved his giving an explanation of the delay. The secretary of state was, therefore, obliged to explain why he failed to issue the proceedings or serve the supporting evidence, as the case might be, in time. But once an explanation was given it became a matter to be considered together with all other relevant circumstances.

There was, in his Lordship's opinion, no justification for treating the adequacy of the explanation as a free-standing or threshold test which had to be satisfied before other considerations could be taken into account.

There was no support for such a good reason for being granted an extension of time which he sought; but that was not the same for having to know a good reason for the delay. The secretary of state must explain the delay; the better the explanation, the better it would be for him to obtain leave.

In the present case he gave an explanation. It was a good one. The judge thought that, despite that, leave should be given.

In his Lordship's opinion, he applied the correct test, and the view which he took was one to which he was entitled to come, if, contrary to his Lordship's opinion, his decision was vitiated by the error of law already referred to, it would make no difference, for that would entitle the court to substitute its decision, and his Lordship would come to the same conclusion as the judge did.

The case was brought in the public interest to disqualify a director alleged to be unfit. The charges, particularly of false accounting and trading while insolvent, were particularly serious and there was an obvious public interest in having them determined.

The delay was not minimal and the explanation for it was unsatisfactory, but it had not affected the timing of the hearing and had caused no prejudice to the director. His Lordship would emphasise that the director must be exercised in the light of all the circumstances and not merely because there was no prejudice to the director.

Solicitors: Peters & Peters; Treasury Solicitor.

European Law Report

Funeral grant condition unlawful

Community principle of non-discrimination on the ground of nationality, for the purposes of article 7 of Regulation No 161/2/88, for the United Kingdom to make the payment of social fund funeral expenses subject to the condition that the funeral took place in the United Kingdom.

Article 7 of Regulation No 161/2/88 provides: "(1) A worker who is a national of a member state may not, in the territory of another member state, be treated less favourably than a migrant worker subject to the condition that burial or cremation was to take place within the territory of the member state."

Community principle of non-discrimination on the ground of nationality, for the purposes of article 7 of Regulation No 161/2/88, for the United Kingdom to make the payment of social fund funeral expenses subject to the condition that the funeral took place in the United Kingdom.

Under the Social Fund (Maternity and Funeral Expenses) (General) Regulations [S.I. 1987 No. 481], a funeral payment, a means-tested social benefit, was payable to cover the costs incurred by the claimant or a member of his family on the occasion of death in the family.

By regulation 7(1)(c), a funeral payment could only be made if the funeral, defined by regulation 3(1) as meaning a burial or cremation, took place within the United Kingdom.

After the death in the United Kingdom of the son of John O'Flynn, an Irish national resident in the United Kingdom as a former migrant worker, the burial took place in Ireland.

Mr O'Flynn's application for a funeral payment was refused on the ground that the burial had not taken place in the United Kingdom.

It was, however, to be noted that under the 1987 Regulations the funeral payment covered not only the necessary costs of the burial or cremation of the body, but also the costs incurred by the responsible family member in order to ensure that the deceased received a modest but decent funeral at a place near his home.

The costs of transporting the coffin to a place of burial or cremation distant from that home were not covered by the payment.

The court had consistently held that the equal treatment rule laid down in article 48 of the EC Treaty and article 7 of Regulation No 161/2/88 prohibited not only overt discrimination by reason of nationality but also all covert forms of discrimination which, by the

application of other distinguishing criteria, led in fact to the same result.

Accordingly, by the case law, conditions imposed by national law were to be regarded as indirectly discriminatory where, although applicable irrespective of nationality, they affected essentially migrant workers, or the great majority of those affected were migrant workers, or the conditions were indistinctly applicable but could more easily be satisfied by national workers, or there was a risk that they might operate to the particular detriment of migrant workers.

It was otherwise only if the provisions were justified by objective considerations independent of the nationality of the workers concerned and if they were proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

In relation to justification, it was sufficient to note, as to protection of public health, that that objective was also safeguarded if the body was transported outside the United Kingdom for burial or cremation in another member state.

The United Kingdom had further put forward a justification based on administrative costs and practical difficulties of paying the allowance if the funeral took place outside the United Kingdom.

However, in such a case, leaving aside the cost of transporting the coffin outside the United Kingdom, the expenses incurred within the United Kingdom, the cost of transporting the coffin to a place distant from the deceased's home was not covered in any event.

With respect to the costs of burial or cremation in another member state, there was nothing to prevent the United Kingdom from limiting the allowance to a lump sum or reasonable amount fixed by reference to the normal cost of a burial or cremation within the United Kingdom.

The possibility of exercising so fundamental a freedom as the freedom of movement of persons could not be limited by such considerations which were purely subjective.

A migrant worker would, in his capacity as responsible member, incur costs of the same type as, and of comparable amount to, those incurred by a national worker.

On the other hand, it was above all the migrant worker who might, on the death of a member of the family, have to arrange for burial in another member state, in view of the links which the members of

the family generally maintained with their state of origin.

To make payment of any expenses incurred by a migrant worker in his capacity as responsible member subject to the condition that burial or cremation took place within the United Kingdom therefore constituted indirect discrimination, unless it was objectively justified and proportionate to the aim pursued.

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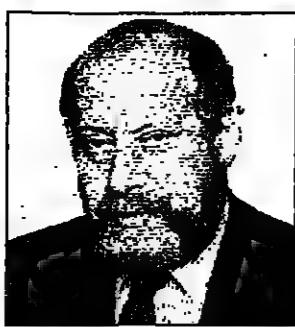
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Golfers enjoy putting on the style

FREUD
ON FRIDAY

Some 60 years ago, *The Times* golf correspondent reported on the first inter-club putting tournament, which was held at the Royal Wimbledon Club. "It was one of those notions," Bernard Darwin wrote, "for which it is not possible confidently to prophesy success, but, in fact, 21 clubs entered teams of four and Royal Wimbledon itself, has, in the language of another past-time, four boats on the river, bringing the total entry to 25."

The event became to putting as Henley to rowing, the Highland Games to caber tossing and remains the "thoroughly amusing competition to watch" of Darwin's day: moreover, one which a man with only medium eyesight can follow in its entirety, looking through a tankard, sitting on a strategically-placed park bench. There shall come a time when we will have need of more such contests.

Royal Wimbledon's putting green is large and handsome, very fast and in beautiful order. All holes are par two: each — from the 6-ft 16th, where less than immaculate direction and pace leaves the ball four feet down a slope beyond the pin, to the 15-yarder which requires a tap and a prayer — are professional holes, quite beyond the ability of the hackers and thumpers you encounter on the putting green at Southwold: better class of people, also; some wearing blazers, none encumbered by women, children and dogs (it goes without saying that, away from putting greens, women, children and dogs are among my favourite things).



Competitors in the putting tournament try to conquer the holes on the large and testing green at Royal Wimbledon golf club. Photograph: Alan Weller

This year, the tournament has excluded golf club teams and is contested by the 32 best old boys' societies: four leagues of eight, four per team, each player competing against his opposite number in each of seven matches. Thus, Uppingtonians' No 3 plays Old Etonians' No 3, etc.

Consequently, there is much searching for partners and a whole new meaning to the question "are you a one?" Royal Wimbledon is not just an exceptionally beautiful country course with a remarkably voluminous putting green, but a club that exudes bonhomie and hospitality: a drink called Wimbledon Hillbilly contains grapefruit juice, sparkling lemonade and Angostura Bitters, comes in pint glasses clinking with ice, lubricates guests and is used in the initial stages of translating the sober merchant banker arriving after work into the inebriated putter-lout who

staggers around when play is done.

Action begins at 5.30pm. I witness the local captain, a Gregorian (Downside), a Quick, of the Old Carthusians. Behind them, an Old Etonian chafe to a Blundellian.

Quick puts with a pipe in his mouth: we all know how that impedes skill. Quick aces five of the first six holes.

Around me, men are asking whether there are any No 3s wanting a match; it appears that those No 3s not playing are drinking. I meet

Frank Denny, who now lives in Crief. He ran this competition for 19 years and now comes down from Scotland annually to be chief organiser.

Worried has it that Andrew Baker, of Blundell's, scored 14 points yesterday: seven games, seven wins (you get one point for your team for a draw).

Things begin to warm up;

there are pairs at each hole. Body language, also who has the honour to putt off, shows the state of things. An Uppingtonian baronet mistakes me for my brother and we have a long cordial conversation remembering matches of yore.

A Millhillian, who lives near where I live in the

quint"; the doctor asked: "Is that one word or two?"

A charming old boy came to talk to me, ensured that my Hillbilly did not need replenishment, told me of the winning team not only receiving a trophy but that the top player,

he who amasses most points on finals day, next Friday, is to be awarded Bunn Millard's

putter. Millard is 98½ years old, in tremendous shape, a bit deaf, otherwise smart as a new penny. He will be there to make the award.

Penalties? No. There is a play-off and Blundellians go through.

A man who may have been a sometime sub-editor on a broadsheet approaches to announce that Hurstspoint GS has now changed its name: it is called Hurst Jonians. I thank him.

Some players go and others stay and the barman tells me that the previous night Fettes were there until midnight. "They had a lot to talk about," he said, "but I managed to have everything looking good by opening time, though the carpet is still a bit wet."

CLEMENT FREUD

SPORTS LETTERS

TT riders must be allowed freedom of choice

From Mr Richard Thirkell

Sir, Regrettable as the latest Isle of Man TT deaths are, Andrew Longmore's arguments (June 3) for banning the event are wrong.

Figures of 168 deaths since 1908 may appear sensational, but analysed in a different way, for example as fatalities per racing mile, are much less dramatic. However, the debate should be more than playing with statistics.

It is a basic human instinct to seek danger and challenge, although stronger in some than in others. This instinct has produced sportsmen and explorers who have inspired nations and individuals not necessarily to emulate, but to push themselves to new limits of personal achievement.

To place life in cotton wool so that one is denied this challenge and risk will be to deny the human race one of the qualities that has enabled it to evolve as the dominant species. Whether those risks are experienced through rock climbing, caving, horseriding, racing motorcycles, or simply through being inspired to push personal boundaries in everyday life.

The issue here, as with all similar cases, should not be whether to ban the TT but how to make sure that no reckless, wanton or unnecessary risks are taken, given the nature of

the sport. Informed and reasoned comment from both inside and outside the sport should be listened to, but the final decision must be left to those responsible for the sport's organisation. To impose solutions from Government not only correctly raises questions of civil liberties but also causes one to wonder whether the eventual outcome could be as effective.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD THIRKELL,
Rose Cottage, Park Corner,
Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

From Mrs Helen Shephard

Sir, We live right on the TT course, very close to where two of the accidents happened, and sometimes we are mowing our lawn with our backs to the racers who pass by at high speeds and sometimes put their lives at risk.

What they are not doing is putting other road users in danger as do others who drive dangerously and cause thousands of deaths on the road. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families of the racers who have lost their lives, but the racers themselves are dedicated, often professionals, who have worked hard to achieve a standard of driving or riding that the rest of us envy.

While they are willing to continue, we can only comment that some have died

doing what they most wish to do, and the comparison with Everest climbers is much more appropriate than comparison with those who take on uncertain risks without much thought or care.

We can vouch that safety is of paramount importance long before and all through the time of the races taking place. Medical cover is provided by helicopters so that in any incident the injured person is within hospital in minutes. The number of viewing places is reviewed constantly. The police maintain a high presence, and this was particularly obvious on "Mad Sunday", when everyone does several circuits of the course; 99 per cent of riders were obeying the speed limits. In fact I had occasion to walk along the pavement twice and at no time did I feel any apprehension.

Before journalists comment, they should come and sample the happy atmosphere of hundreds of people here enjoying themselves. They all know the risks — it is their choice.

Yours truly,

HELEN SHEPHARD,
Lezayre Vicarage,
Churchtown, Isle of Man.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Footballers escape true collective punishment

From Mr William McKee

Sir, If the management and players of the England football team wish to adopt the principle of collective responsibility (reports, June 4), so be it. However, the correct response from the Football Association becomes very clear: the same punishment should be applied collectively as would have been applied to the individuals responsible had they had the courage to own up.

Doubtless such treatment, necessitating as it would the earlier than expected arrival of Glenn Hoddle as coach and of a completely new squad of players, would raise a howl of protest that such draconian

action would wreck England's chances of winning the tournament. Well possibly, although analysis of England's results against quality opposition might reveal this to be a fairly forlorn hope anyway; it would, however, have substantial benefits.

The short-term benefit is obvious: faced with exclusion, the principle of collective responsibility might crumble and the innocent might then emulate reasonable citizens who witness the offence of criminal damage and identify the culprits so that they can be dealt with, ultimately, one would hope, by the courts.

The long-term benefit is

ting up to play on, more often than not, helped to their feet by opponents; and, when tired defenders, understandably by today's values, passed back to Gordon Banks as the final whistle approached, the England supporters booted.

Ah, halcyon days of national pride and great sportsmanship, crowned by the most valuable sporting gesture of all time: the vigorous nodding of a Russian head to confirm that Geoff Hurst's shot off the crossbar had crossed the line.

So much was different, but most notable of all was the sportsmanship.

Apart from one or two bits of theatre from Hoddle, we saw nobody feigning injury: downed players simply get-

ting up to play on, more often than not, helped to their feet by opponents; and, when tired defenders, understandably by today's values, passed back to Gordon Banks as the final whistle approached, the England supporters booted.

Yours faithfully,

NEILL MONAGHAN,
The Chantry,
Preston Bowry,
Milverton, Somerset.

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1996 Challenge. The top four individuals scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
7 JUN	SOCIETE GENERALE	EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL	64
10 JUN	BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD	HAWTHORNE PARK HOTEL	26
10 JUN	CITIBANK N.A.	WIMBLEDON PARK	50
10 JUN	COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE	WILL GREEN	33
10 JUN	LAWRENCE GRAHAM	THE RAC COUNTRY CLUB	50
10 JUN	NEVILLE RUSSELL	COLLINGSTREE PARK	44
10 JUN	TAYLOR JOYSON GARRETT	WEST HILL	30
11 JUN	TULLETT & TOWNE INT'L	NEVER	120
11 JUN	ABBEY NATIONAL BENEFIT CONSULTANTS LTD	LEATHERHEAD	50
11 JUN	ETHERNET LIMITED	HELLOON LAKES	26
11 JUN	INTERIOR PLC	EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL	40
11 JUN	NORTH WEST AUTO TRADING LTD	MEBE 6 & CC	100
11 JUN	P.A. BUSINESS SYSTEMS LTD	GAINSBOROUGH	50
12 JUN	ABE YORKSHIRE	PIKE HILLS	50
12 JUN	CLARKE'S BANK / CLARKE'S HYDE	WEYDEA HILL	30
12 JUN	BENNETT BROOKS & CO LIMITED	PORTAL	40
12 JUN	CHASE	THE LONDON GOLF CLUB	40
12 JUN	COSTAIN HAMBKA JV	ST MARY'S GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	40
12 JUN	DFDS TRANSPORT LTD	CITY WEST HOTEL	60
12 JUN	EXCALIBUR GROUP HOLDINGS LTD	TRENTBANK PARK	60
12 JUN	FIRESNET LIMITED	BLACK BUSH	20
12 JUN	FOSTER LEADS STONE	NORTHWOOD	10
12 JUN	GERALD LIMITED	THE OXFORDSHIRE	60
12 JUN	IMPERIAL TOBACCO LIMITED	KINGS NORTON	50
12 JUN	MAGNET SECURITY & FIRE SYSTEMS LTD	RAMSEY	50
12 JUN	MOBISOURCE LTD	THE SHROPSHIRE	20
12 JUN	PALL EUROPE LTD	PORTRUSH	50
12 JUN	ROWE & MAW	ASHBOURNE	40
12 JUN	SMC PNEUMATICS UK LTD	FOREST OF ARDEN	30
13 JUN	ALLIANCE DUNBAN	EASINGWOLD	30
13 JUN	CITROEN FLEET	WORLESDON	30
13 JUN	CURTIS HOLT LTD	WILDERNESS	40
13 JUN	DURACELL BATTERIES LTD	CHARTHAM PARK	60
13 JUN	IMM ROWLEY HALL HOSPITAL	WROTON HALL	60
13 JUN	PAPER MAKERS' ALLIED TRADES ASSOCIATION	THE TYTHEBURNING	40
13 JUN	ROBERT WHITWELL & PARTNERS	ROTHLEY PARK	40
13 JUN	SHARPE & FISHER (BUILDING SUPPLIES) LTD	FUCOURIUS HALL HOTEL	70
13 JUN	SWALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	WITTINGSBOROUGH	40
14 JUN	ROWATER BUSINESS FORMS	ST PIERRE	60
14 JUN	BULWELL PRECISION ENGINEERS LTD	HORSLEY LODGE	30
14 JUN	CITROEN SCOTTISH OPEN	DALMAHAY	40
14 JUN	COOPERS & LYBRAND (DUPONT COAST PRACTICES)	PALMINGTON	40
14 JUN	CROWN WINDOWS	GOLF CENTRE	30
14 JUN	CUSTOMSHED INDUSTRIES LTD	CHURSTON	30
14 JUN	DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	WELLINGBOROUGH	30
14 JUN	DONG & SMITH	KILLYMOON	24
14 JUN	ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOCIETY	ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOCIETY	20
14 JUN	FIRMINCH UK LTD	STOCKLEY PARK	15
14 JUN	JIM TAYLOR WHITEHEAD LTD	MOLTON	120
14 JUN	MICCLURE WATTERS	MALONE	60
14 JUN	MERRIMAN BUSINESS SUPPORT PLC	PORTAL	30
14 JUN	N.I.C.S. SPORTS ASSOCIATION	LURGAN	90
14 JUN	PAUL, DAVIDSON & TAYLOR	SILVERFIELD PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	60
14 JUN	PILKINGTON UK LTD	LYNEHAMI	80
14 JUN	RICE-JONES & SMITHS	WEST END	24
14 JUN	ROTCOT GUERNSEY LIMITED	LE GRAND MARE	60
14 JUN	RUSSELLS SUPPLIES LTD	WORTHERS	40
14 JUN	THE MAYFLOWER CORPORATION PLC	WENTWORTH	60
14 JUN	TOSHIBA (UK) LTD	WILLAGE	40
14 JUN	TRAVIS PERKINS	COLLINGSTREE PARK	80
14 JUN	WILLIS CORROON	CELTIC MANOR	50
14 JUN	WILLIS CORROON MANAGEMENT (ISLE OF MAN)	PEEL TOWN	40

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CRICKET

Kent unable to keep Simmons in check

By JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (second day of four): *Leicestershire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Kent*

IT HAS been a hard battle at Grace Road. Leicestershire's innings, which took up most of the day, bore a remarkable resemblance to the pattern set by Kent on Wednesday, with one innings head and shoulders above the rest for ease of execution and the bowlers, for the most part, able to contain but not to penetrate.

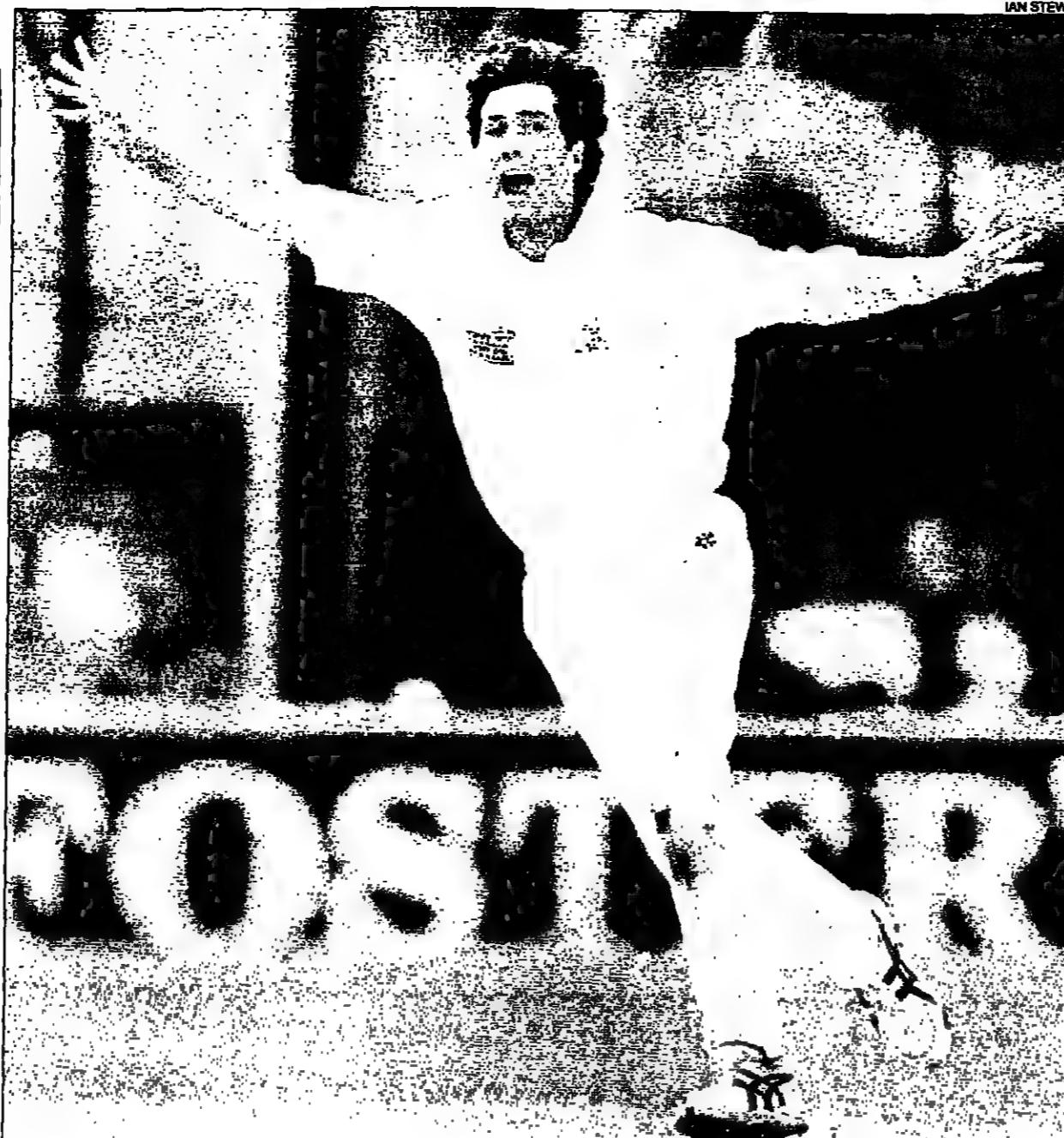
Whereas Ward had been the exception to the rule for Kent, it was Phil Simmons, Leicestershire's lissom West Indian, who took the honours yesterday. Coming in with Leicestershire 85 for two in the first over after lunch, he announced himself with two four through the covers and went on in the same delightful vein until given out leg-before on the sweep to Hooper.

Leicestershire also owed a debt to Ben Smith, who, with Simmons in such prime form, put aside his natural instincts. Of the 101 they added for the third wicket, Simmons made 82. So subdued was Smith by then that his progress from 41 to 51 took 62 balls, but this self-discipline by a natural strokemaker has served his side well.

Smith eventually went on to his century in four hours and 40 minutes. It was the fourth of his career and his second of the season, and it displayed a welcome maturity. For uninhibited talent, though, it was Simmons who took the palm.

With Simmons at the crease, bating and artistry went hand in hand. He took the Kent attack by storm and caused Marsh to juggle and re-juggle his field placings. Simmons crashed seven fours in his first 33 runs and ten in his first 50, scored at just over a run a ball. By the time he was dismissed he had been in for only 67 minutes, had faced 75 balls, and had added a six to his other boundaries.

McCague, Phillips, Preston:



Something to shout about: Ronnie Irani celebrates after taking the wicket of Mohammed Azharuddin, the India captain, during his first over in Test cricket for England at Edgbaston yesterday. Report, page 48

Hollioake's haul piles on pressure

By SIMON WILDE

MIDDLESBROUGH (first day of four): *Yorkshire won toss; Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 229 runs behind Yorkshire*

YORKSHIRE have a poorer championship record at Acklam Park than at any other home ground in recent years, and they failed to deal convincingly enough with a depleted Surrey side yesterday to inspire confidence that they can end a barren series of results, dating back to 1980. They were all out for 305 and in reply Surrey had scored 70 for two by the close.

On a pitch which gave hope to the fast-medium bowlers, though, the chances are that there will be a result and

Yorkshire, second in the championship table, can take heart from the fact that their opponents are badly lacking in confidence. They have let slip a couple of victories that should have been theirs.

Nothing seemed likelier at the end of the first session than that Yorkshire would be around 400 for five at the close. They were then 145 for two, with Vaughan and Bevan together and looking completely at ease, and McGrath having got them off to a rattling start with 41 from 40 balls. The outfield was so fast that any shot piercing the field would almost certainly escape capture.

In fact, only Vaughan went on to make a score of substance, his cultured 135 constituting half his side's total

when he was seventh out, and spoiling further evidence of his growing maturity. He played himself in more cautiously than his colleagues and when wickets started to fall he did not allow it to disturb his steady rhythm.

Having batted faultlessly for 4½ hours, he fell to a catch at the wicket off Benjamin five minutes before tea — which was delayed because Surrey were three overs behind the required number — attempting his unimpeachable extra cover drive of the day. It was a stroke which brought him many of his 23 fours.

Several of the Yorkshire players will rue the strokes to which they got out, not least Bevan. He looked in prime form before pulling at a ball that would have been best

played down to his feet and spoiling a catch to mid-on. No sooner did White and Blakey reach the crease, than they played on.

All three fell to the bowling of Ben Hollioake, 18, who enjoyed an excellent first day in first-class cricket, returning his side's best figures of four for 74 from 21 overs. Bowling at a bustling medium-pace, he ducked the ball into the right-hander and promises to be a useful addition to Surrey's attack.

He enjoyed the unusual experience of entering the game under the captaincy of his elder brother, Adam. They are the eighth pair of brothers active in county cricket, three of whom have a Surrey connection — the others being the Bicknells and Butchers.

Caddick drops hint to selectors with five-wicket haul

By PAT GIBSON

TALINTON (first day of four): *Somerset won toss; Somerset, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 149 runs behind Warwickshire*

ANDREW CADDICK'S relief at being told that the shin soreness which has plagued him for the past two seasons has cleared up at last, coupled with ideal conditions for his type of bowling, made it an uncomfortable day for the county champions, who did well to get as far as they did.

It was a good toss for

Somerset to win on the morn-

ing after a scan had revealed that the stiffness that Caddick had been feeling had nothing to do with his old problems. The ball swung in the sultry heat and seamed off a well-grassed pitch and Caddick looked every inch an England bowler again.

He finished with five for 76 but his figures did scant justice to the quality of his bowling. In fact, he probably did too much with the ball. Penney in particular playing and missing time and again before putting together an innings of 77 that did most to lift Warwickshire to 255.

They would have settled for

pull down a slash off Lee when he made 14.

The fifth-wicket pair had put on 78 when Caddick returned to have Brown picked up low down by Lathwell at cover. Caddick sat Pollock on his backside with a bouncer first ball but neither that nor a series of deliveries which seemed to go straight through him could deter the young South African and Somerset needed a run-out for their next wicket. Penney, who had batted away for more than three hours, hesitated over a leg bye and Pollock threw the wicket down from mid-wicket.

It was then Somerset's turn to struggle. The pitch appeared to have eased under the effects of the hot sun and the heavy roller when Lathwell and Bowler were putting on 38 for the first wicket but then two wickets for Pollock and two for Brown meant that Somerset ended on 106 for four.

There were two more wickets for Caddick as the tall subside but a question mark remained over his stamina when he decided, with the last pair together, that he had had enough bowling. Rose obliged and claimed the final wicket with his first ball.

Then it was Somerset's turn to struggle. The pitch appeared to have eased under the effects of the hot sun and the heavy roller when Lathwell and Bowler were putting on 38 for the first wicket but then two wickets for Pollock and two for Brown meant that Somerset ended on 106 for four.

Grayson proves his worth

By IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (first day of four): *Essex won toss; Essex have scored 48 for six wickets against Lancashire*

THIS was no occasion on which to lose the toss or, consequently, be a bowler or a Lancastrian. Three Essex batsmen made centuries yesterday. Stuart Law playing the most dismissive innings and Graham Gooch the most technically correct. Paul Grayson's was as impressive as any in that this was his first important innings for his adopted county.

The upshot was a sizeable total. These were runs made swiftly against bowling that was, shall we say, lacking in devil. Grayson, who went in first wicket down in the ab-

bat even harder. If that would seem to be an impossibility — does not Gooch use a heavier bat than anybody else? — here are two examples of how Law struck the ball yesterday. Chapple, supposedly an England bowler in the making, was hit for a skimming six over mid-wicket off the back foot. Then, Speck was driven on to the top tier of the T. N. Pearce stand at deep mid-wicket, a terrific shot.

Law's century, his sixth in 11 innings, four of them in first-class cricket, came off just 101 balls, including 12 fours and three sixes. Grayson, with whom he put on 205 in 44 overs, could not compete with that, but it scarcely mattered.

Once again, Essex reckon

that they have a cricketer who possesses a greater sense of self now that his ability is better appreciated. The Yorkshireman's century came off 27 balls and included 17 fours, the majority pleasantly timed.

When Law surprisingly mishit a pull to mid-on off Austin, the remainder of the final session inevitably became anti-climactic. Today, Nathan Wood, the son of Barry Wood, the former England batsman, will open Lancashire's innings. This is the pitch that he would choose for his debut.

Adams takes honours on day of big scores

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

IT WAS the day of the No. 3. Five occupants of this most important batting position made centuries in county championship matches yesterday with pride of place going to Chris Adams, of Derbyshire, who scored an unbeaten 213, three short of his career best, at the expense of the sweltering Hampshire bowlers at Southampton.

Adams, the third Derbyshire player to score a double-century this season — after Kim Barnett and Dean Jones — put on 298 in 77 overs for the second wicket with Adrian Rollins (13), whose dismissal brought Jones to the crease with the board showing 324 for two.

Happily for Hampshire, Jones made only 19, but Adams, who has so far struck five sixes and 23 fours, and defied the best efforts of eight bowlers looks in the mood to cause more mayhem today.

Alan Wells, the Sussex captain, promoted himself to first wicket down against Durham at Hove and, while Bill Athey gritted away, provided sparkling entertainment. Wells reached his hundred in 168 minutes off 147 balls, hitting 20 fours. Athey took twice as long and hit half the number of boundaries.

Robert Bailey, the Northamptonshire captain, bating in his usual position, led his side into a strong position at Trent Bridge, where Nottinghamshire paid a heavy price for two missed chances by Chris Tolley, who split opportunities to remove both Bailey (11 not out) and Mal Lohy (98), who added 191 in 61 overs for the third wicket.

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Mike Gatting's 39th birthday celebrations were spoilt somewhat when Middlesex lost their opening pair while scoring 25 runs in reply.

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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship	
Essex v Lancashire	
CHAMPSFORD (first day of four): Essex won toss; Essex have scored 48 for six wickets against Lancashire; Lancashire have 31 overs	106
1 R. Turner, G. D. Rose, J. D. Bailey, A. R. Caddick and K. Shine to bat	106
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-63, 3-78, 4-80, 5-101, 6-110, 7-121, 8-130, 9-140, 10-150, 11-160, 12-170, 13-180, 14-190, 15-200, 16-210, 17-220, 18-230, 19-240, 20-250, 21-260, 22-270, 23-280, 24-290, 25-300, 26-310, 27-320, 28-330, 29-340, 30-350, 31-360, 32-370, 33-380, 34-390, 35-400, 36-410, 37-420, 38-430, 39-440, 40-450, 41-460, 42-470, 43-480, 44-490, 45-500, 46-510, 47-520, 48-530, 49-540, 50-550, 51-560, 52-570, 53-580, 54-590, 55-600, 56-610, 57-620, 58-630, 59-640, 60-650, 61-660, 62-670, 63-680, 64-690, 65-700, 66-710, 67-720, 68-730, 69-740, 70-750, 71-760, 72-770, 73-780, 74-790, 75-800, 76-810, 77-820, 78-830, 79-840, 80-850, 81-860, 82-870, 83-880, 84-890, 85-900, 86-910, 87-920, 88-930, 89-940, 90-950, 91-960, 92-970, 93-980, 94-990, 95-1000, 96-1010, 97-1020, 98-1030, 99-1040, 100-1050, 101-1060, 102-1070, 103-1080, 104-1090, 105-1100, 106-1110, 107-1120, 108-1130, 109-1140, 110-1150, 111-1160, 112-1170, 113-1180, 114-1190, 115-1200, 116-1210, 117-1220, 118-1230, 119-1240, 120-1250, 121-1260, 122-1270, 123-1280, 124-1290, 125-1300, 126-1310, 127-1320, 128-1330, 129-1340, 130-1350, 131-1360, 132-1370, 133-1380, 134-1390, 135-1400, 136-1410, 137-1420, 138-1430, 139-1440, 140-1450, 141-1460, 142-1470, 143-1480, 144-1490, 145-1500, 146-1510, 147-1520, 148-1530, 149-1540, 150-1550, 151-1560, 152-1570, 153-1580, 154-1590, 155-1600, 156-1610, 157-1620, 158-1630, 159-1640, 160-1650, 161-1660, 162-1670, 163-1680, 164-1690, 165-1700, 166-1710, 167-1720, 168-1730, 169-1740, 170-1750, 171-1760, 172-1770, 173-1780, 174-1790, 175-1800, 176-1810, 177-1820, 178-1830, 179-1840, 180-1850, 181-1860, 182-1870, 183-1880, 184-1890, 185-1900, 186-1910, 187-1920, 188-1930, 189-1940, 190-1950, 191-1960, 192-1970, 193-1980, 194-1990, 195-2000, 196-2010, 197-2020, 198-2030, 199-2040, 200-2050, 201-2060, 202-2070, 203-2080, 204-2090, 205-2100, 206-2110, 207-2120, 208-2130, 209-2140, 210-2150, 211-2160, 212-2170, 213-2180, 214-2190, 215-2200, 216-2210, 217-2220, 218-2230, 219-2240, 220-2250, 221-2260, 222-2270, 223-2280, 224-2290, 225-2300, 226-2310, 227-2320, 228-2330, 229-2340, 230-2350, 231-2360, 232-2370, 233-2380, 234-2390, 235-2400, 236-2410, 237-2420, 238-2430, 239-2440, 240-2450, 241-2460, 242-2470, 243-2480, 244-2490, 245-2500, 246-2510, 247-2520, 248-2530, 249-2540, 250-255	

RACING: ASMUSSEN TO CLAIM FIRST BRITISH CLASSIC

Mezzogiorno looks good value in high-class Oaks

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE Vodafone Oaks at Epsom today is truly befitting of a classic, with ten largely talented sophomores ranged against a short-priced favourite in Pricket. There is far greater strength in depth behind the Godolphin representative than bookmakers would have believed.

Victory for Pricket would mark Godolphin's third successive Oaks triumph to compliment those of Moonshell and Balanchine. It would also raise to five the individual classic winners Henry Cecil has lost to Godolphin. Yet the Newmarket trainer has a force of his own in Lady Carla, unbeaten in two outings and proven over 12 furlongs and fast ground.

So what of Pricket, winner of a juvenile maiden and a slowly-run Pretty Polly Stakes at Newmarket from the 40-1 chance, Faraway Waters? Her achievements lack substance. Granted, Magnificent Style, the Misudora Stakes winner, was behind Pricket at Newmarket but that filly, a late defector here, demonstrably failed to give her best.

Faraway Waters was subsequently routed by another of today's rivals, Whitewater Affair, on easier ground at Goodwood. The best that can be said about Pricket is that she has caught the eye. She may prove herself an exceptional filly but those willing to support her at odds of 5-4 should be wearing white coats.

Whitewater Affair enters the

equation on the strength of her victory at Goodwood. This Machiavellian filly draws her stamina from her mother, Much Too Risky, a stoutly-bred, stoutly-trained daughter of Bustino.

However, what militates against her is that Ray Cochrane rejected the mount in favour of Mezzogiorno. Cochrane has since dislocated his collarbone. He will be out of action for three weeks, but his preference for Geoff Wragg's horse came as no great surprise.

Mezzogiorno is bred for 12 furlongs but showed so much

speed as a juvenile that a tilt at the Oaks appeared unrealistic. That prospect is now enticing after Mezzogiorno's dismissal of the highly-rated Quota over ten furlongs three weeks ago.

Cast Asmussen, whose riding style so mirrors Cochrane's, makes an attractive replacement. Asmussen has never won a British classic but she stayed on well, that may prove illusory. Connections would have preferred a drop of rain for Honest Guest, who is not bred for 12 furlongs.

Like Mezzogiorno, Bint Salsabil showed admirable precocity last season. But this daughter of classic-winning parents, Nashwan and Sals-

abil, has twice performed disappointingly this term with no obvious excuse. Her chance is feasible, if hard to envisage in the light of her seventh place in the 1,000 Guineas.

Honest Guest finished two places ahead of Bint Salsabil in that Newmarket classic over a mile. Although she stayed on well, that may prove illusory. Connections would have preferred a drop of rain for Honest Guest, who is not bred for 12 furlongs.

Another happier on an easier surface is the Peter Chapple-Ham-trainee Camporese. This once-raced Alleged filly has immense potential but will have learnt little from her front-running victory at Haydock.

This leaves Lady Carla as the biggest threat. Pat Eddery's mount remains unproven in this league but what may count against her is the absence of a confirmed front-runner. Eddery may have to use Lady Carla from some way from home to ensure the test of stamina she requires.

At 11, MEZZOGIORNO

will pay more for a place than will a Lady Carla victory at 3-1, and looks outstanding each-way value.

On the Derby front, Michael Kinane and John Murtough have earned reprieves after their respective mounts, Dr Massini and Mick's Love, succumbed to injury. Kinane has ousted Willie Ryan from Storm Trooper, while Murtough replaces Cochrane on Double Leaf.

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May 11 Lingfield good to firm: (8-8) best Flaming Valley (8-8) 31 (1m 2f, listed race, £100,525, 13 ran).

May 12 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Bint Salsabil (8-8) 17 (1m 7f, 1m 3f, 100yds, listed race, £13,273, 4 ran).

May 13 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Rude Awakening (8-8) 17 (1m, 1m 3f, 100yds, listed race, £19,365, 11 ran).

May 14 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Bint Salsabil (8-8) 17 (1m, 1m 3f, 100yds, listed race, £19,365, 11 ran).

May 15 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Bint Salsabil (8-8) 17 (1m, 1m 3f, 100yds, listed race, £19,365, 11 ran).

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May 17 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Flaming Valley (8-8) 31 (1m 2f, listed race, £12,573, 5 ran).

May 18 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Flaming Valley (8-8) 31 (1m 2f, listed race, £12,573, 5 ran).

May 19 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Flaming Valley (8-8) 31 (1m 2f, listed race, £12,573, 5 ran).

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May 83 Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) best Flaming Valley (8-8) 31 (1m 2f, listed race, £

FOOTBALL: WHY EURO 96 MAY FAIL TO UNEARTH A NATURAL SUCCESSION TO THE GAME'S GREATS

Ill winds threaten to extinguish the torch of genius

"Whom God wishes to destroy, he first makes mad."

Euripides (480-406 BC)

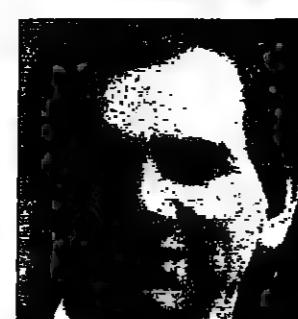
It seems as if our children's role models have to be stripped, literally, to bare-chested buffoonery, on the road to self-destruction, even before they achieve. I shall avoid adding to the volume of references to the escapades of Paul Gascoigne, not least because he is not alone in that broken image of English sportsmanship, and because supposedly far more intelligent England players look just as daft and exposed as him. But when searching for a player in Euro 96 who might just give us a flicker of greatness, Gascoigne does indeed come into the role of men given a gift by God, if only they had the savvy to know how to use it.

Think of the sport's idols. Di Stefano was on the pedestal through to the Sixties. Pelé, imperious in ability and humility, took up the baton through to the Seventies. He handed it to Cruyff and Beckenbauer, whose retirement allowed Maradona to carry the mantle of world greatness.

He was the forerunner to the really flawed idols. We hope not to see another man betray such a playing fortune by quite such depths, but, arguably, the three players in this European tournament who come closest to being brushed by genius seem similarly mentally challenged.

I think of Gascoigne, of George Hagi, the Romanian known as "the Maradona of the Balkans", and of Hristo Stoichkov, whom some

ROB HUGHES



Football correspondent

believe invented his own soliloquy: "God is a Bulgarian". All three are capable of absolute fantasy on a football field, all three could be the hub, in spirit and in the sweet flow of the game, for the success of teams built around them. Yet when Stoichkov stamps on the foot of a referee, when Hagi goes on his perennial binges, when Gazzetta stops right there.

I do not believe that the modern game, or the way we address it, permits gifted individuals to endure. The game was always transient, simply because a player is over the hill once he turns 30. Alfredo Di Stefano, and particularly Pelé, defied that because the era in which they performed allowed them the great dignity of changing with the times, of adapting the game and the players whom they commanded to the broadening knowledge in their minds and the waning breath in their lungs.

England has a professional players' union — most countries in Europe do — but the teaching elements required, even though there are some dedicated workers, never seem to penetrate those destined for the very top. Nor have the unions even scratched the surface of persuading the paymasters to think of the body, never mind the psychology, of players such as Alessandro Del Piero, Italy's young soldier of fortune, who might be another fleeting wonder at Euro 96.

He surely has the gift. The way he can glide with a ball, change the pace and direction not only of his movement but also of a game, and the way he can deliver a goal from fantas-

tic could, in a phrase, make others play for them. How one would love to be proved wrong, and to find that Gascoigne could indeed indeed grow up. But what true hope is there?

Eric Cantona and Roberto Baggio, who would have made up the number to five really gifted individuals, have not even been selected by France and Italy respectively. Cantona, his national team coach decided, represented a danger to team harmony, a man whose mind could not be put on the wavelength of a team now unbeaten in 23 games. Baggio may simply be in dire need of a summer respite; he should never have been made to play on damaged knees in the 1994 World Cup, and he, like virtually every leading professional in Europe, has scarcely known what a summer holiday means.

Baggio is a multimillionaire; they all seem to be, even before potential is converted to profit in the playing sense. Think of the million-pound salaries, think of the boot contracts thrown at the feet of Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and Ryan Giggs; the money of a lottery winner showered on players who have yet to turn apprenticeships into quantifiable success.

One wonders if the game, laughably called a profession, will ever take the responsibility to teach young men, very often from working-class environments, how to cope with tortures, how to behave in public, how to withstand the idolatry of pop stardom.

England has a professional players' union — most countries in Europe do — but the teaching elements required, even though there are some dedicated workers, never seem to penetrate those destined for the very top. Nor have the unions even scratched the surface of persuading the paymasters to think of the body, never mind the psychology, of players such as Alessandro Del Piero, Italy's young soldier of fortune, who might be another fleeting wonder at Euro 96.

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Maradona was the forerunner of the modern flawed idol. Photograph: Richard Sellers

tic angles, are all reasons why Baggio has been overlooked by Italy. Yet the Del Piero of summer is a shadow of his 18-year-old self in winter. He has been made to play for the Army, for Italy's under-21 and Olympic teams, for the national team, and for the Juventus team which won the European Cup. Del Piero has gone well past 50 games this sea-

son, and that, with the emotional approach Italy expects of its footballers, is far, far too draining a schedule.

Within the next weeks, the adrenaline flow of the competition, our openness to being entertained, will doubtless allow the enthusiasm to rise, so that words like greatness and magnificence rise again. But remember 1994? The player

who, at the last World Cup, thrilled me more than any other was Romario. Unlike Marco van Basten, the cruel defenders who would chop his limbs could not actually catch the Brazilian. But, sated by rewards, he has faded into beach debauchery, gone into a terribly wasted early twilight in Rio de Janeiro.

Whom God...

Swiss assume look of calm before dawn

By ROB HUGHES

FOR a team said to be riven with internal discontent, supposedly fuming at the lack of fair play that prevents them from training at Wembley before the opening match of Euro 96 tomorrow, and fearful of a good hiding from England, the Swiss are good actors. In the sunshine yesterday, they were so laid back as to be almost supine in the courtyards around the thousand-year-old country manor that is their base in north Hertfordshire.

Worried about the English?

Marc Hottiger, the Everton right back, who is suspended for the game tomorrow, said: "We know what we can do. We are very quiet, very calm about it, but we have good technique, and though England also has some technically capable players, you will see our midfield keeping the ball moving. Why shouldn't we be relaxed, we have come through a World Cup?"

Hottiger also was at pains to dismiss talk of alarm in the camp concerning Artur Jorge, the Portuguese coach, who, having inherited another man's squad, surprised them all by leaving out two of Switzerland's established players — Adrian

Knup, the centre forward, and Alain Suter, the midfield creator.

"It's a decision for the coach,"

Hottiger said. "We don't have to say something about his choice, but it's normal in a team, even when you are surprised, to pull together once you play matches."

Jorge, who had a brain

tumour removed two years ago, is exceptional among men. He speaks six languages, has two degrees, one in modern literature and one in philosophy, and, when it comes to the caginess of disinguis

hing his intent and his tactics, he does not come second to Terry Venables.

Will Switzerland, for exam

ple, play three in attack, thus

obliging England to abandon,

for the opening game, the

three-man defensive system

and revert to 4-4-2? Jorge

smiles behind his black-brush

moustache. "There are some

things I cannot tell you," he

said. "We have to complicate it for each other for as long as possible."

Yet he will talk, deeply,

about the so-called discontent.

"When you do something like this," he said of the dropping of Knup and Suter, "it is normal that not everyone is happy. They have friends in the squad, but, in my opinion, they had a very bad season. I went several times to Germany to watch Knup playing for Karlsruhe. Most of the time he was left on the bench. I witnessed only seven minutes ... and Stephane Chapuisat is a player you cannot compare Knup with. Chapuisat can do something important here in England, I think."

He thinks this coach, a

great deal. Some of the agg

gation that has come from the

media reflects the resentment

felt by everyone that Roy

Hodgson, the Englishman

who had built the Switzerland

team beyond expectation, was

not allowed to carry through

his mission and work as coach

to Internazionale at the same

time.

Jorge has chosen

French as the language of com

munication for the little time that he

has had with the squad. That seems logical, given that all bar three of the players come from the predominantly

French region, even if that is out

in Switzerland by

the German-speaking

population.

The smile of Jorge, a Portu

guese national who was top

scorer in his own league while

studying at university, sug

gests tolerance, but it is not

reciprocated in kind, and so he

can only say: "I understand it.

For me, this reaction is not a

sporting question. I don't

know any coach who makes

political decisions. The squad

that I have picked is very close

to Roy's, and the way that we

play is almost the same, but we

are playing England in

England for the first match.

You have very good players — Ince, Gascoigne and Platt, for

example. It is a very difficult

match for us. We are not

favourites."

He knows that, come rain or

shine, the majority of his

recently-adopted nation are

waiting to blame him for any

failings that become apparent

tomorrow. However, looking

again at those players lying in

the sun, it did not seem as if

their repose was that of

underdogs ready to surrender.

THE TIMES

GOLF: P. S. Bladon

By JOHN LEWIS

GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE TIMES

TENNIS: GRAF AND SÁNCHEZ VICARIO TO MEET IN FRENCH OPEN FINAL AFTER COMFORTABLE VICTORIES

Semi-finals produce soporific spectacle

DAVID MILLER



At the French Open in Paris

THE women's singles semi-finals of the French Open championships produced two lacklustre contests. Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario respectively defeated Conchita Martínez and Jana Novotná in straight sets. Graf reached set point in the first set amid almost total silence, suggesting that many spectators were slumbering.

That was forgiveable on two counts: the unexceptional quality of the tennis and the baking conditions, the temperature soaring into the Nineties. It must be said that Martínez, losing to Graf by 6-3, 6-1, was at times so casually careless, hitting loosely into the foot of the net, that she was in danger of dozing off with the customers.

Novotná repeatedly placed an ice pack on her neck, when sitting between change of ends, but it was her grey matter that needed the coolant against Sánchez Vicario. In the second set she led 3-1 and served for the set at 5-4, but, like the Novotná we have come to know, could not pull together in sequence her best shots.

For the first six games all was well as she traded ground strokes with the bustling little Spaniard, causing her problems with her sliced backhand. However, at that point her forehand, and ultimately her entire game went to pieces. Including eight double faults, she made 42 unforced errors, in the middle of the match suffering a run in which she surrendered 20 out of 22 consecutive points to allow Sánchez Vicario a 6-3, 7-5 victory.

This was a shame. Novotná is the only player with an all-round game approaching the class of Graf, making her capable of breaking the stran-



Sánchez Vicario shows the determination which is her trademark in making a backhand return yesterday. Photograph: Lionel Cironneau

glehold on the women's game held by the top four: Graf, Sánchez, Martínez and Sánchez Vicario. Novotná had beaten Sánchez in the quarter-final, and might now have made this her own third grand slam title. As Jaroslav Drobny once reflected on his fellow Czechs, 'Lend, Mandlikova and others — "We're a complex people and take a long time to get it together."

Novotná said that Sánchez Vicario had not won the match, but she had lost it. Pressed on this issue, she made excuses for herself — on the basis that her versatility is incompatible with consistency, a theory, of course, which Graf's record contradicts. At the same time said she thought the women's game was heading up a creek with a paddle.

"It seems the classic [all round] style has disappeared completely," Novotná said. "None of the players outside the top ten plays anything but

RESULTS	
Men	
DOUBLES: Semi-final: Y. Kafelnikov (Russia) and D. Vavsek (Cze) bt J. Palmer (USA) and M. Pez (Arg) 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.	
MIXED DOUBLES: Quarter-final: L. Novotná (Cze) and T. Woodbridge (Aus) bt N. Bratton and J. T. Woodbridge (Aus) 6-3, 6-3. Semi-final: P. Tarbinski and J. Frana (USA) bt M. Boilegoff (Neth) and R. Leach (USA) 6-2, 7-6.	
SINGLES: Semi-final: A. Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt J. Novotná (Cze) 6-3, 7-5; S. Graf (Ger) bt C. Martínez (Sp) 6-3.	

hitting the ball hard from the base line. That's why they can never beat Monica [Sánchez], because she's better at it."

In the space of three days we have seen the best and worst of Sánchez Vicario. Following her tactical cynicism against Karina Habusudova, we saw yesterday her unsinkable will to win, her capacity to chase and scramble and retrieve, getting everything back into court. Facing her is like being confronted by a sheepdog that will not give up.

Her final against Graf will be her ninth in grand slams, and her fourth in the French

Open. She beat Graf in 1989, opened 18, and lost to her last year. Their head-to-head record stands at 26-8 to Graf, who will have to play far above yesterday's form to retain her title tomorrow.

For all the soporific nature of the occasion, the crowd tried hard to generate some enthusiasm for Novotná, recognising her talent and some of them remembering, no doubt, the way that Sánchez Vicario had behaved on court in the quarter-final. Yet every time Novotná found some impetus, she quickly lost it. The sixth game of the second set person-

ified the Spaniard's character, pursuing every possibility to break back for 3-3, and revealing the same belligerence when twice break-point down at 4-3.

It would be wrong to suggest that Sánchez Vicario's game is predominantly negative. In that eighth game she had won one of the best points of the match at the end of a 20-stroke rally, pulling Novotná into the net and then beating her with a backhand pass. Briefly, Sánchez Vicario herself ran out of puff, only for Novotná to come to her rescue with an obliging sequence of double faults.

Although there were five consecutive breaks of service after the first game of the first set, there was never a flicker of doubt that Graf would soon be having the shower for which everyone else at Roland Garros longed. Martínez swung her racket disaffectionately after losing a point, much of the time looking little different from a qualifer out of her depth. She was only saved from swifter execution by the unusual number of unforced errors by Graf.

Serving for the first set at 5-3, there was a sudden flash of the real Graf as she hit two whiplash forehands, and the second set came and went as quickly as a cold drink on this scorching day. This will be Graf's 26th grand slam final, of which she has won 18.

Today's men's semi-finals should provide something rather more riveting as Pete Sampras and Michael Stich attempt to achieve something unique: the first French final since the Second World War between two serve-and-volleyers.

That is a shade dismissive, perhaps, because both of them have far more to their game than mere full toss bullets. Standing in their way respectively, are Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, and Marc Rosset, of Switzerland. Neither can be expected to last more than four sets.

Petchey invades Henman's party

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THERE seemed to be much to celebrate for Tim Henman yesterday at Beckenham. Both he and Greg Rusedski had been accepted for the singles at the Olympic Games and he had also made it into the doubles with Neil Broad. It makes Henman the only home-grown player in the men's team, Rusedski coming from Canada and Broad from South Africa. Clare Wood and Valda Lake will represent Great Britain in the women's doubles in Atlanta.

The festivities were ready to start early as, according to the script, Henman should have had an easy win over Mark Petchey for a place in the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, Petchey was determined to spoil things, which he did by beating Britain's top-ranked player 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.

RUGBY LEAGUE

French seek new Super League club

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PAT Pending was this mad chap in the 50s, who being only a diminutive 4ft.5in., was called the "Widget".

"The Widget."

Pat Pending 1956.



He should not be confused with our "in the bottle Widget" which was invented in 1994.

FUGGLES,
a brand
NEW
OLD FASHIONED
ALE.

WITH NEW BOTTLE & CARTON
EASY DRINKING
5.6% BY VOLUME

ROWING

British crews facing tough route to Atlanta

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT, IN LUCERNE

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) has received an application from a French business consortium to set up a new Super League club in France, based in Bordeaux.

The proposal is for the 1998 season and has been made in conjunction with Bordeaux Football Club. "It would give us one of the best stadiums in France, and is exactly the sort of expansion we want in Europe," Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said.

Lindsay's present concern, however, is expediting the entry of South Wales to the competition for next season. Dublin, Barcelon and Milan are other new areas being looked at. The difficulties experienced at Paris Saint-Germain, the sole French club in the Super League, illustrate, however, the problems of finding sufficient quality players to sustain a bigger and more competitive league.

The majority of the Paris side face Castleford at home tonight. 48 hours after they represented France and lost 34-14 to Wales in the European championship match on Wednesday, Paris have lost their past six matches.

HOCKEY

Garcia puts penalties to good use

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

GREAT Britain's men achieved a morale-boosting 2-1 victory over Germany in Frankfurt yesterday, reversing the result of the international match at Milton Keynes on May 26.

Germany, reinforced by the return of Fischer, the veteran full back, a member of the Olympic gold medal-winning team of 1992, took a one-goal lead after just four minutes. Saliger scoring. Britain fought back, however, and Garcia equalised from a penalty stroke in the thirteenth minute. He added another goal, which proved to be the winner, from a similar award a minute before half-time.

Although Germany are not in the same pool as Britain for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, there will be further opportunity for Britain to test their strength against them in international tournaments later this month, in Milton Keynes and Amsterdam, also involving Holland and Pakistan.

GERMANY: C. Rötz, C. Fisher, C. Mayr, C. Frey, J.P. Tawes, P. Baumhauer, C. Böck, K. Michel, S. Göller, M. Walchauer, A. Becker.

GREAT BRITAIN: S. Mason, J. Wyatt, J. Holt, P. McGuire, K. Takagi, S. Sora Singh, C. Mayor, R. Garcia, R. Thompson, J. Ladd, N. Thompson.

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 7 1996

RADIO CHOICE

Not hunger, just appetite

1 Was That Teenager. Radio 4 (FM). 10.00am.

Prompted by Hunter Davies to look back at his teenaged self, John Cole, the former BBC Radio 1 DJ, spoils my mental picture of him. Young John did not constantly hunger for political food, but he did good-naturedly look horns with his father, debating political issues into the small hours. Father had shifted from left to right, Son spouted the left-wing thoughts that he got from his Boys' Brigade officer. Sectarian troubles rarely ruffled family feathers. Son reported what a catholic pal had said about France's early exit from the Second World War: "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity". At which, the Presbyterian parent thundered: "What the hell sort of company is this boy keeping?"

I'm Not an Uncle Tom. Radio 5 Live. 9.35pm.

Lennox Lewis denied calling Frank Bruno an "Uncle Tom", but that did not stop Bruno from rejecting the reported jibe in one of his first comments after winning his world title last year. Ian Bent's inquiry into "Uncle Tomism" — blacks selling out to whites — keeps coming back to Bruno. Apropos the legend "Loved by few, hated by many, respected by all" on Mike Tyson's T-shirt, Bent makes a point that is not as simplistic as it may appear at first hearing: is a black boxer convicted of rape entitled to his fellow blacks' respect, when that same respect is denied to another black boxer whose only offence is that he made people laugh in a pantomime?

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 8.00am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 'Lanc' Inc 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier Inc 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.30 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Anne Nightingale 5.45 George South 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Meridian 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Science 2.00 Newsbeat 3.00 News 3.30 3.30 Music 4.00 4.05 BBC English 4.30 News 5.00 Business 5.45 Europe Today 5.50 6.10 World 6.10 BBC Today 6.20 Spotlight 6.30 Focus in German 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.00 NewsHour 9.00 News: Summary 9.01 Outlook 9.25 West 9.30 9.30 Music 9.45 Newsbeat 10.00 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.20 People and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 The New Europe 11.45 Sport 12.00 Newsdesk 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multiplay 1.00 News 1.15 Newsdesk 1.30 Newsbeat 1.45 Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Outlook 2.35 Words of Faith 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 Meridian 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Vintage Chart Show

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl 6.05 7.35 Racing preview 8.00 The Magazine incl Video Review and News from around the world 9.00 The Saturday Show 9.30 The Sunday Show 10.00 One in the Jungle 10.15 The Thirty-Line Steps, by John Buchan. Read by John Nettles (5/10) 9.30 Listen to the Band (Music Live on Tour) 10.00 Mike Harding, Radio 2 Arts Programme 10.30 Susie Lend

11.00 News 11.30 The New Europe 11.45 Sport 12.00 Newsdesk 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multiplay 1.00 News 1.15 Newsdesk 1.30 Newsbeat 1.45 Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Outlook 2.35 Words of Faith 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 Meridian 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Vintage Chart Show

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today 5.45 Focus Routes 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 6.45 Words and Music 6.50 Insider's Guide 7.00 News 7.15 World Today 7.30 Blues 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 About 9.00 News in Germany 9.15 Germany 9.30 9.45 George South 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Meridian 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Science 2.00 Newsbeat 3.00 News 3.30 3.30 Music 4.00 4.05 BBC English 4.30 News 5.00 Business 5.45 Europe Today 5.50 6.10 World 6.10 BBC Today 6.20 Spotlight 6.30 Focus in German 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.00 NewsHour 9.00 News: Summary 9.01 Outlook 9.25 West 9.30 9.30 Music 9.45 Newsbeat 10.00 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.20 People and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 The New Europe 11.45 Sport 12.00 Newsdesk 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multiplay 1.00 News 1.15 Newsdesk 1.30 Newsbeat 1.45 Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Outlook 2.35 Words of Faith 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 Meridian 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Vintage Chart Show

CLASSIC FM

4.00pm Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 6.00 Margaret Hodge 12.00 Suzanne Simons 2.00pm Concerto 2.00 Jamie Clegg 6.00 Newsbeat 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Showcase 8.00 Concert 10.00 Michael Marren 1.00am Through the Night

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 6.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Michael Marren 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air: Vivid (Violin, Concerto in A, Op 9 No 6); Brahms: Piano Quartet in C minor, Op 80; Weber: (Overture); Bruch: (Kol Nidre); Brahms: (Toccata); Liszt: (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat); Handel: (Cantata: 'Nell' Africane arie); Haydn: (Symphony No 7 in C, Le Matin)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Sibylle (The Tempest Suite No 1); Handel: (Cantata: 'Nell' Africane arie); Haydn: (Symphony No 7 in C, Le Matin)

10.00 Musical Encounters (Music Live on Tour), Nicola Haywood Thomas is joined in Tenby by the National Chamber Ensemble of Wales and the Pembrokeshire Youth Choir (piano, brass, woodwind, brass band, organ, solo voices); Trad (Quintet in A for piano and wind); Mathias (Angelus); Malcolm Arnold (Three Sea Fanfares); Plus Arias and Wotan; Gwendolyn Evans: baritone, sings Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan and Verdi

12.00 Composer of the Week: Böhm, Bruch and Busch

1.00pm Test Match Special: Richard Rodney Bennett: Includes Let's go live in the countryside for Orchestras; Early to bed: Concerto for Stan Getz (r)

1.00pm Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes 1.00 Mat (Symphony No 3) 2.40 Instrumental and vocal music; 3.00 Book Choice 4.00 Concerto for Stan Getz (r)

1.00pm

A tough time in front of the small screen

D raining is the only word for last night's telly. Cumulatively. *QED. Postcards from the Edge and The Death of Yugoslavia* left me so emotionally parched that a handful of dust would look lively by comparison. Like many people, I suspect, I had seen the trailers for *QED*, featuring Danny — whose rare condition, progeria, made him an old man at 20 — and wondered whether I would have the heart to watch. This fragile, tiny person had a beak nose and a bald, swollen head, and round eyes close together, like buttons. In a baseball cap, he sat beside his adoptive mother in Northamptonshire and blinked at the camera. Thursday was going to be tough, I thought. And I was right.

The theme of *QED* (BBC1) was natural lifespan. How does the ageing process work? Why should healthy people still die of old age? A Texan millionaire called Miller

Quarles has been investing money in cell research, hoping a cure for old age will be discovered before he exhausts the world's supply of vitamin pills. Quarles is 81, and still playing tennis. He has iron-grey hair, I think the intended point of this *QED* was that his enemy was the same as Danny's, but it was hard not to compare cases and wax judgmental. Alongside Danny, Quarles just seemed monstrous to demand a longer life. The loaded comparison was underlined when Danny's mum asked him: "Is there anything you would change about your life, Danny?" — and after a long, suffering pause he said no.

A couple of years ago, Anthony Thomas made an ITV *Network First* about American age taboos. I'm pretty sure Quarles was in that, too. The arguments certainly sound familiar. Quarles relishes the idea of extending the lifespan of certain like-minded people (Ron-

ald Reagan and Baroness Thatcher) while preventing births among the less deserving. So that's all right then. "I wanna save my own ass," he said, which was honest of him. Luckily he is too ridiculous to be dangerous, and his cells are reproducing more slowly than ever, so perhaps he will find religion more reliable than science when heading for the great tennis court in the sky. Meanwhile Danny died in March, a fact revealed at the end of the film, like a slap in the face, making me gasp "Oh no!" and burst into tears.

Great scene in the last Airport (BBC1) when the Duchess of York needed to send a fax from Anita's VIP suite. They stood together by the machine. "It requires a credit card, have you got one?" asked Anita. The Duchess of York leapt for her handbag, saying yes, yes, she was sure she did. But then she stopped.

"Must have left it at home," she said. Ha ha ha, thought the viewer. That old trick.

But it was a rare moment of levity. I'm afraid, Channel 4's "Broke" season is its best idea in ages, and last night's deeply gloomy *Postcards from the Edge* was quite superb. Some people are far worse off than the Duchess of York, you know, and the eminent photo-journalist Nick Danziger

took pictures of such people in Glasgow and Halifax while a film crew followed him around, setting his grainy monochrome pictures in a full-colour context. It was fascinating for anyone prejudiced against photographers (like me), who regard them suspiciously as a cold, parasitic bunch who snap and split without saying ta. Danziger appeared to have a long-standing relationship with his subjects, and kept mentioning previous visits. But dammit, if this intimacy results in better pictures, he would make friends, wouldn't he?

In Glasgow, his subjects were Mary and Aggie, two tough grandmothers framed by an urban wasteland, whose unprintable children were on heroin. As they walked their grandchildren to school, or prayed in the cemetery for a dead daughter, Danziger took close-up pictures, creating still images which consistently said more about the moment than

the moving film. At one point, Mary and Aggie greeted each other briefly at the pub, hugging and patting. Danziger's picture of this encounter caught them holding tight as if their lives depended on it — which, in a sense, was true.

Holbrooke talked to camera, too, about the tough time they'd had, with Christopher laughingly denying that he ever shouted, "I'm quiet enough that when I raise my voice it's noticeable," he explained. The only star witness not forthcoming was President Clinton, but I expect they tried.

As I may have mentioned earlier, it was a good night for telly, but not such a treat for depressives. Turning to *One Foot in the Past* (BBC2) I hoped for some jolly architecture feature to cheer me up, and sure enough, Dan Cruickshanks was reviewing the Georgian townhouse that solid icon of elegance and stability. Hoorah, I thought. Bricks, mortar and classical pediments, you can't go wrong. But alas, it turns out the Georgian townhouse was often jerry-built by rogues. Roofs were held up with bits of old log! Houses fell down and killed people! Oh what a terrible night it was.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Great scene in the last Airport (BBC1) when the Duchess of York needed to send a fax from Anita's VIP suite. They stood together by the machine. "It requires a credit card, have you got one?" asked Anita. The Duchess of York leapt for her handbag, saying yes, yes, she was sure she did. But then she stopped.

Gardener's World (BBC2, 8.30pm)

In a departure from its usual format, the gardening show begins a new series which aims to put us right on the law. What with smoking bonfires, destructive animals and trees which threaten to undermine foundations, there should be no shortage of material. But the first topic for the barrister Derek Sweeting, a specialist in horticultural litigation, is overhanging trees. Sweeting highlights a case from Surrey which started with a seemingly innocuous request and developed into a long and inconvenient legal wrangle. The trouble is that the branch at the centre of the dispute is covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Once a TPO is in force you lop off even a couple of branches at your legal peril, even if they do overhang your fence and cut off your light.

Murder Most Horrid: Confess (C4, 9.00pm)

Dawn French is a police sergeant in the latest black comedy, investigating the murder of a senior colleague. He has been shot dead at home while watching a Disney video, the cue for a visit to a video shop run by an erstwhile villain (Roger Lloyd Pack) trying to go straight. In he comes for questioning and the joke is that while French psychology, her fellow sergeant (Mimble Driver) prefers a more straight-up approach. Throw a twist at the end and you have the essence of Jon Carter's script, which, like most in this series, promises more than it delivers. The parody of police procedure sits uncomfortably with bumbling humour more associated with Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell. But French's inquiry to her colleague fussing with make-up ("Are you ready, or is that just the undercoat?") is worth switching on for.

Murder Most Horrid: Confess (C4, 9.00pm)

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Angus Deayton in the chair (10.00pm)



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